UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.17/1994/17
11 May 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Second session
16-27 May 1994
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21, FOCUSING ON THE CROSS-SECTORAL COMPONENTS OF AGENDA 21 AND THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Letter dated 4 May 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which is scheduled to be held in New York from 16 to 27 May 1994, and on behalf of the States members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have the honour to transmit herewith copies of the following five documents which have been adopted by ASEAN (see annex), together with the request that they be circulated as an official document of the Commission on Sustainable Development:

(a) Post-UNCED Issues: ASEAN's Priorities and Responses;

(b) ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment;

(c) Action Plan on the ASEAN Environment Year 1995;

(d) ASEAN Harmonized Environmental Quality Standards;

(e) Bandar Seri Begawan Resolution on Environment and Development.

(Signed) Nitya PIBULSONGGRAM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
on behalf of the Chairman
of the ASEAN Standing Committee

* E/CN.17/1994/1.

Annex

POST-UNCED ISSUES:
ASEAN's Priorities and Responses

ASEAN's INITIATIVES

1. As a regional grouping of developing nations, ASEAN has long recognized the need to strike a balance between the promotion of economic growth and the protection of the environment, both of which are inextricably linked. The ASEAN Summits and Ministerial Declarations since 1981 have consistently guided ASEAN cooperation in the field of environmental management based on the principle of sustainable development. The Manila Declaration of 1981 set out policy guidelines for effective environmental protection, while the Bangkok Declaration of 1984 emphasised a comprehensive sectoral approach towards environmental management. The Jakarta Resolution of 1987 adopted the principle of sustainable development in environmental management, while the subsequent Kuala Lumpur (1990) and Singapore (1992) Resolutions spelt out various policies to promote regional cooperation based on the principle of sustainable development. Many Agenda 21 themes and action programmes are therefore already embodied in ASEAN cooperation programmes.

2. In the short two years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), ASEAN has taken further steps towards greater regional cooperation on the environment. This was in response to, among others, the need for enhanced regional activities as called for by Agenda 21 and the increased intra-ASEAN development and economic initiatives such as ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA). The recent Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers for the Environment held in April 1994 adopted The Bandar Seri Begawan Resolution on Environment and Development in which contains the following new initiatives:

(a) adoption of the ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment, which sets out specific strategies based on the principle of sustainable development;

(b) agreement on Harmonized Environmental Quality Standards for ambient air and river water quality in the ASEAN region, to be achieved by the year 2010;

(c) declaration of 1995 as the ASEAN Environment Year, in order to broaden the participatory process by all sectors in the field of environmental management within ASEAN.

3. While ASEAN has made good progress in regional cooperative programmes on the environment, it continues to face difficulties in respect of new and additional financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building required for the full implementation of Agenda 21. Although commitments were made at Rio with regard to these resources, these have not been forthcoming.

ASEAN's CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES

4. ASEAN expresses disappointment at the slow pace of positive developments after the UNCED especially with the implementation of Agenda 21. In this connection, ASEAN calls upon the 2nd Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which would have the opportunity to make substantive reviews of various sectoral and cross-sectoral clusters, to emphasize the need to operationalize Agenda 21 and support regional and national activities. In this connection, ASEAN's priorities are as follows:

I. Financial Resources:

5. The flow of financial resources needed to support and hasten the process of sustainable development would include the following:

(a) the effective implementation of commitment on financial resources made at UNCED, so as to meet incremental costs in achieving sustainable development;

(b) the immediate conclusion of the restructuring of Global Environment Facility (GEF), as called for at UNCED, including the flexibility of GEF to respond to regional activities of ASEAN in particular;

(c) preferential and concessionary terms for technology transfer, including mechanisms for financing technology acquired from the private domain; and

(d) investigation of additional, improved and innovative financial mechanisms to reflect common but differentiated responsibilities, including the support for regional facilities such as the Asian Sustainable Development Fund (ASDF).

II. Technology Transfer

6. Efforts towards enhancement of technology will have to address the following needs:

(a) facilities for the assessment of clean technologies;

/...

(b) means for improving access to technology for small and medium scale industries;

(c) monitoring and surveillance facilities for a wide range of processes which impact on the environment; and

(d) upgrading of rescue and emergency services as a whole and also with special reference to those fields where development and environmental considerations are most closely linked (eg. technologically sophisticated processes, biotechnology, specialized fields of engineering).

III. Capacity Building

7. Capacity building in ASEAN must address the quantity and quality of the human resource base, and the availability of increasingly specific and defined skills. Such capacity building effort must emphasize the full and meaningful participation of local counterparts. Some of these requirements would include:

(a) policy formulators and analysts who are able to examine flows from policy through implementation to assessment, including mediating and resolving environmental resource use conflict;

(b) planners and evaluators for drawing up national action plans and resource management plans for Agenda 21 implementation;

(c) Legal expertise for identification of themes linking development and environment through the existing law, for drafting environmental law, and integrating it with development objectives;

(d) economists, auditors, accountants, bankers with specific skills to link development and environmental issues eg. environmental auditing and natural resource accounting;

(e) strengthening of media network, with environmental communicators, awareness, and education builders and programme designers; and

(f) specialized skills such as environmental and chemical engineers, material scientists and technologists, biodiversity specialists such as biotechnologists.

IV. Trade and Environment

8. ASEAN has always worked towards the liberalization of trade. However, we view with serious concern attempts by some developed countries to impose unilateral trade-related conditionalities on developing countries, we consider that

/...

such efforts represent attempts by developed countries to utilize legitimate environmental concerns as tool for protectionism. We believe that such attempts would undermine our efforts and also those of other developing countries towards achieving sustainable development. While recognizing that trade is an important instrument to promote sustainable development, any measure to promote better environmental management must be consistent with GATT principles. ASEAN had faced constraints in this aspect, especially with the unilateral employment by other countries of eco-labelling, universal minimum wage as well as other labour standards, and other forms of trade barriers. The new economic order envisaged by UNCED has yet to materialise. ASEAN therefore calls for better trade arrangements which are supportive of environment and development. In this respect, ASEAN seeks improved capacity in assessing trade and environment linkages; and improved capacity in trade-environment policy analysis, planning and evaluation.

CONCLUSION

9. As a vibrant and viable regional entity, ASEAN seeks to play a significant role in assisting to realize the objectives of Agenda 21, particularly through intra and inter regional cooperative programmes. ASEAN has made every effort to achieve greater self reliance in environmental management. However, our desire to accelerate the process towards self-reliance and the early implementation of Agenda 21 have been set back by the lack of specialized skills, inadequate capacity, and limited financial resources. ASEAN therefore calls for the immediate and meaningful implementation of the commitments arrived at Rio. We therefore urge the forthcoming CSD Meeting to seek practical solutions to these needs as a matter of urgency.

ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment
1994 - 1998
Executive Summary

1. The UN Conference on Human Environment held at Stockholm in 1972 provided a strong stimulus for the development of regional and sub-regional environmental programmes with a view to dealing with environmental problems in a cooperative framework. The ASEAN Environment Programme I (ASEP I), initiated in 1977 through the catalytic support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), marked the beginning of regional environmental cooperation in ASEAN.

2. ASEP I described the extent of regional cooperation and listed the different priority areas and projects/activities on environment. On the recommendation of the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology, the first meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group on the Environment (AEGE) was held in Jakarta in December 1978 to consider ASEP I. The First ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the environment which was held in Manila in April 1981 endorsed ASEP I, thereby adopting its objectives and guidelines.

3. In 1981, the first ASEAN declaration on cooperation on the environment was made. It defined the broad objective of cooperation as being to "ensure the protection of the ASEAN environment and the sustainability of its natural resources so that it can sustain continued development with the aim of eradicating poverty and attaining the highest possible quality of life for the people of the ASEAN countries". It enumerated a number of policy guidelines enjoining member countries to: develop a common awareness of the environment, enact and enforce environmental protection measures, ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account in development efforts, and foster the development of environmental education programmes. Subsequently, two other environment programmes were developed and implemented, namely, ASEP II covering the period 1982-1987, and ASEP III covering the period 1988-1992.

4. The Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment held in July 1993 in Bangkok, agreed that a new ASEAN Action Plan should be developed taking into account new developments following the outcome of UNCED which adopted Agenda 21. The plan should take into consideration the need to harmonize the working groups' objectives, strengthen the existing institutional arrangements, identify priority regional issues including environmentally related implications of the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA), as well as establish ASOEN's position in international fora such as the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and Inter-Governmental Committee on the Convention on Biological Biodiversity (ICCBD). The Meeting requested the ASEAN Secretariat to initiate action to prepare such a plan.

5. This Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment has the following five objectives:

   a. to respond to specific recommendations of Agenda 21 requiring priority action in ASEAN;

   b. to introduce policy measures and promote institutional development that encourage the integration of environmental factors in all developmental processes both at the national and regional levels;

   c. to establish long term goals on environmental quality and work towards harmonized environmental quality standards for the ASEAN region;

/...

d. to harmonise policy directions and enhance operational and technical cooperation on environmental matters, and undertake joint actions to address common environmental problems; and

e. to study the implications of AFTA on the environment and take steps to integrate sound trade policies with sound environmental policies.

6. To attain these objectives, the following strategic thrusts and actions will be pursued.

STRATEGY 1: Support the development of a regional framework for integrating environment and development concerns in the decision making process

7. Integrating environment and development concerns in decision making has been long recognized as a key element for promoting sustainable development. Successive ASEAN resolutions, declarations and decisions refer to this element as of vital significance. Efforts therefore have been initiated to meet these directives. But these efforts need to be consolidated and further refined if the intention is to apply them uniformly in the region. There is a necessity to develop a regional framework that will ensure the integration of environment and development concerns in the respective national decision-making processes. The elements of that framework include the following: a) institutional capability to make an integrated, forward looking and cross-sectoral approach in making decisions; b) appropriate policies and legal frameworks in place to undertake the task; c) sufficient technological base for use in decision making; and d) sound information and data base derived from monitoring and research.

Actions:

1.1 Continue support in the documentation of regional EIA experiences leading towards the harmonisation of procedures

1.2 Initiate activities that will make use of natural resource and environmental accounting studies and approaches

1.3 Establish procedures that would initiate the integration of environmental concerns in the various ASEAN programmes and activities

STRATEGY 2: Promote government-private sector interactions that lead towards the development of policies that mutually support the thrust of each sector

8. The recent decision of ASEAN to establish AFTA underscores the prevailing trend in regional trade cooperation embracing a liberal and market oriented system. This decision, however, has implications on the environment. The challenge for ASEAN is how to reinforce AFTA with sound environmental policies. In this regard, government institutions and industries would play major roles in developing sustainable societies. There should be consensus in the framing of policies that reinforce the thrust of each sector.

Actions:

2.1 Initiate studies on development of environmental and trade policies which are supportive to the principles of sustainable development

2.2 Establish mechanisms that encourage government and private sectors to adopt appropriate environmental standards backed up by sufficient economic incentives

2.3 Set up government-private sector information linkages/networks to include information on technology, expertise and facilities for environmental management

STRATEGY 3: Strengthen the knowledge and information data base on environmental matters

9. Environmentally sound and sustainable development requires that action is taken on the basis of objective, reliable and comparable environmental information. This calls for enhanced capability at national and regional levels to obtain sound environmental data, transform these data into meaningful information and share this knowledge among the various actors involved in implementing actions. This also implies that new demands will be placed on monitoring and information gathering systems on the basis of harmonised database and inter-calibration of existing monitoring systems. ASEAN should now start strengthening its capacity to collect, store and exchange information data base and knowledge on environmental matters.

Actions:

3.1 Pursue the establishment of basic environmental quality standards leading to the setting up of harmonised quality standards in the region

3.2 Identify centres of excellence for environmental R&D and eventually build them as focal points of environmental networks

3.3 Establish a mechanism for the preparation of periodic reports on the state of the region's environment

STRATEGY 4: Strengthen institutional and legal capacities to implement international agreements on environment

10. Agenda 21 identifies, as a prerequisite to global participation on sustainable development, the strength of institutional and legal capacities of national and regional entities. As environmental issues now transcend beyond regional boundaries, the need to develop these capabilities in order to implement international agreements on environment as well as effectively participate in the negotiation of new international treaties, and the review of existing ones, cannot be overemphasized. There are still many aspects of international law on sustainable development that still merit development and appropriate interpretation to make them effective and binding. ASEAN, from a regional standpoint, should strengthen its institutional capacities to implement, and its legal capacities to present, its concerns and interests in international legal discussions on the environment.

Actions:

4.1 Undertake a comparative study on the institutional structure and legislation on environmental management

4.2 Establish capacities to support regional efforts to implement international agreements and participate effectively in the negotiation of new or revised agreements

4.3 Enhance collaboration with international bodies overseeing the implementation of international agreements and cooperation

STRATEGY 5: Establish a regional framework on biological diversity conservation and sustainable utilisation of its components

11. The ASEAN region has invaluable biodiversity and abundant natural resources comprising 30% of the world's tropical forests. During the last two decades, ASEAN countries have embarked on massive economic development activities aimed at raising the standards of living of its people. Consequently, however, the impacts of these activities have affected the region's biodiversity. Thus, capacities for assessment, study and systematic observation and evaluation of biodiversity need to be reinforced at national and regional levels. An effective national and regional action supported by international cooperation is required for the *in situ* protection of the ecosystems and the *ex situ* conservation of biological and genetic resources. Similarly, the establishment of a regional centre on biodiversity conservation should be actively supported.

Actions:

5.1 Promote the development of a framework for the protection and conservation of heritage areas and endangered species

5.2 Strengthen capacities for R&D to enhance biodiversity conservation in the region

STRATEGY 6: Promote the protection and management of coastal zones and marine resources

12. The marine environment is truly an ASEAN regional heritage, a fact that has been recognized from the very beginning of ASEAN cooperation. Among the first actions by the ASEAN countries, with catalytic support from UNEP, was the adoption of an Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asia Region. The Southeast Asian seas are natural habitat for about 2500 species of fish and invertebrates. They provide 11% of the world's supply of marine products and are a source of livelihood for many of the region's fishermen. All ASEAN countries have extensive fishing industries. Yet, many of the major near-shore fishing areas in the region are over-fished and polluted from land-based sources and oil spills. The Straits of Malacca, for example, is one of the major shipping lanes for crude oil transport and is vulnerable to oil spills. There has been a notable increase in the occurrence of red tides which is attributed to domestic sources of pollution. This incidence poses not only a health hazard but also effects export earnings. Similarly, many mangroves are disappearing to make room for brackish water prawn farming, housing and industrial development. Coral reefs are also being degraded and require rehabilitation. Accordingly, there is an urgent need for a more coordinated, pro-active and collective action to protect ASEAN's coastal zones and marine resources.

Actions:

6.1 Improve regional marine and coastal environmental coordination

6.2 Develop a framework for the integrated management of regional coastal zones

STRATEGY 7: Promote environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes, and control of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes

13. With the continued rapid industrialization of the ASEAN economies and the trend in the transfer of highly polluting industries from developed to developing countries, the flow of toxic chemicals and dangerous products is bound to increase in the region. There is worldwide recognition that chemical contamination may result in grave damage to human health and the

environment. It is therefore necessary to have good knowledge and assessment of these risks which is a prerequisite to planning for their safe and beneficial use, recycling and disposal. However, for a great number of high volume production chemicals, even basic data for risk assessment is generally lacking. ASEAN should now initiate action on effecting a regional management guide for the safe management of toxic chemicals and hazardous waste.

Actions:

7.1 Establish regional guidelines for assessing highly pollutive industries and safe handling of potentially harmful chemicals entering the ASEAN region

7.2 Strengthen the information network on the transboundary movement of toxic chemicals and hazardous waste

STRATEGY 8: Develop a system for the promotion of environmentally sound technologies

14. Since the region is likely to face increasing challenges for controlling pollution and resource degradation, it is necessary to evolve a system for the promotion of environmentally sound technologies in the region. Pollution control techniques tend to transfer pollution from one medium to another, rather than eliminating it. Therefore, although these technologies may reduce some risks from certain factories, large scale transfer of such techniques may not prove beneficial to promoting regional environmental quality. Environmentally sound technologies are less polluting, use resources in a more sustainable manner and recycle more of their by-products, residues and waste than the traditional technologies they replace.

Actions:

8.1 Establish linkages with existing clearing houses on environmentally sound technologies

8.2 Establish mechanisms that identify end users of R&D results and encourage the participation of private sector

8.3 Strengthen linkage and coordination with other ASEAN committees such as COST doing related R&D work on the environment

8.4 Support the promotion of indigenous technology or technologies that have been adapted to regional needs

STRATEGY 9: Promote regional activities that strengthen the role of major groups in sustainable development

15. The region's ability to develop sustainably depends on the capability and capacity of its people to understand complex environment and development issues and choose the best development alternative. As people would need to have the information and expertise to understand the potential limits of the environment, institutions have the responsibility of making these information available and easily understood. The mechanisms for achieving this objective vary depending on the level of information required. Nonetheless, efforts should be made by ASOEN to bring the result of its various programmes to the ASEAN public either in formal approaches or on an informal basis. ASOEN in general should establish mechanisms that will motivate, educate, train and build capacities especially among the major groups identified in Agenda 21.

/...

Actions:

9.1 Support the publication of regional environmental magazine and newsletters

9.2 Strengthen regional information network and promote exchange of expertise on environmental education programmes

9.3 Develop strategic programmes of action that will strengthen the role and particip ation of major groups on environmental management and decision making

STRATEGY 10: Strengthen the coordinative mechanism for the implementation and management of regional environment programmes

16. As mandated by the Jakarta Resolution on Sustainable Development, ASOEN should facilitate the incorporation of environmental considerations into the programmes and activities of ASEAN committees. This would require a review of all ASEAN committees' activities and projects to assess their environmental implications and suggest measures for environmental protection and improvement. To be able to do this and at the same time implement programmes of this Plan of Action, ASOEN would need strong coordinative support from the ASEAN Secretariat. This will require substantial time on the part of the professional staff of the Secretariat. Since ASOEN's activities are expected to increase in the near future, support should be given to the ASEAN Secretariat to enable it to upgrade its capacities. This may mean augmenting the existing number of professional staff in the environment unit.

Actions:

10.1 Establish an operational system at the ASEAN Secretariat that could plan, monitor and facilitate the implementation of environmental projects

10.2 Source and match funding requirements for proposed projects

17. As an initial step to operationalize the recommended thrusts, the following institutional measures should be taken:

a. Strengthen the capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat as discussed in Strategy 10. The ASEAN Secretariat should play an active supportive and coordinative role in the implementation of all actions in this Plan. While it is recognized that the Secretariat may not have sufficient resources to augment its present staff, it could explore arrangements with multilateral agencies supportive to the organization to have professionals seconded to the Secretariat to help ensure the implementation of this Plan.

b. The ASOEN Working Groups should start preparing the necessary adjustments in their programmes and activities consistent with the identified strategic thrusts.

18. To implement the Plan of Action, various funding sources and schemes should be explored. These include: cost-sharing arrangements among participating ASEAN member countries for selected priority projects; the ASEAN Fund which gives priority to urgent, short-term projects of strategic or confidential nature and which are considered fundamental in building a stronger cooperative ASEAN infrastructure; the ASEAN Sub-regional Environment Trust (ASSET); and other project-related sources of funding such as ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Asia Sustainable Development Fund.

/...

ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment 1994 - 1998

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Emergence of Environmental Concerns in Development

1. The UN Conference on Human Environment held at Stockholm in 1972 provided a strong stimulus for the development of regional and sub-regional environmental programmes with a view to dealing with environmental problems in a cooperative framework. The ASEAN Environment Programme I (ASEP I), initiated in 1977 through the catalytic support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), marked the beginning of regional environmental cooperation in ASEAN. Since then, two more programmes have been developed and implemented, namely, ASEP II covering the period 1982-1987, and ASEP III covering the period 1988-1992. Together with new developments worldwide, they provide a firm basis for launching a new era of cooperation in the field of the environment in ASEAN.

2. The concept of environmental management and sustainable development was put on a firm footing with the report and recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987. The said report underscored two significant developments in thinking: firstly, the concept of environmental management has evolved from a localized issue to a global perspective highlighting the urgency of taking collective actions to address the ever threatening environmental issues; and secondly, it recognized the cross-sectoral nature of environmental problems which require comprehensive solutions. Agenda 21, adopted by the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) at Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, embodies these emerging views and lays down a comprehensive blueprint for action in all areas relating to sustainable development. These world events have a profound impact on the environmental programmes at all levels: governments, private sector, NGOs and other interest groups and regional and international bodies including ASEAN.

1.2 Rationale

3. Recognizing UNCED's importance, the Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment held in July 1993 in Bangkok, agreed that there was a need for developing an ASEAN Action Plan in response to its outcome. The Plan should take into account the need to harmonise the working groups' objectives, strengthen the existing institutional arrangements, identify priority regional issues including environmentally related implications of AFTA, as well as establish ASEAN's common stand in international fora such as the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and Inter-Governmental Committee on the Convention on Biological Diversity (ICBD). The Meeting requested the ASEAN Secretariat to initiate action to prepare such a plan. This document was prepared in pursuant to this decision. The ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment has been structured in the following manner: Section I is the introduction. Section II reviews the mandates and policy guidelines as provided by past ASEAN declarations, resolutions and decisions; assesses the existing institutional arrangements; and presents a brief summary of the implementation of ASEP III and activities of the six ASOEN Working Groups. Section III describes the new directions, objectives and strategic thrusts and the proposed actions and activities. Section IV presents the institutional and financial mechanisms to operationalize the Plan.

/...

2. MANDATE AND POLICY GUIDELINES

2.1 Background: Mandate for Environmental Cooperation

4. The first ASEAN declaration on cooperation on the environment, the "Manila Declaration on the ASEAN Environment of 1981" defined the broad objective of cooperation as being to "ensure the protection of the ASEAN environment and the sustainability of its natural resources so that it can sustain continued development with the aim of eradicating poverty and attaining the highest possible quality of life for the people of the ASEAN countries". It enumerated a number of policy guidelines urging member countries to: develop a common awareness of the environment, enact and enforce environmental protection measures, ensure that environmental considerations are taken into account in development efforts, and foster the development of environmental education programmes.

5. Actual cooperation on the environment started in 1977 when the ASEAN Sub-Regional Environment Programme (ASEP) was drafted with assistance from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). ASEP I described the extent of regional cooperation and listed the different priority areas and projects/activities on environment. On the recommendation of the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology, the first meeting of the ASEAN Experts Group on the Environment (AEGE) was held in Jakarta on 18-20 December 1978 to consider ASEP I. AEGE, which became a permanent body under ASEAN COST, has met every year since. The First ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment, which was held in Manila on 30 April 1981, endorsed ASEP I, thereby adopting its objectives and guidelines.

6. Since 1989, the status of AEGE has been upgraded and called the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN). ASOEN has assumed all the activities, tasks, responsibilities and commitments of AEGE. ASOEN meets annually and is assisted in its work by six Working Groups which meet regularly.

2.2 Policy Guidelines

7. In the Bangkok Declaration on the ASEAN Environment of November 1984, the Ministers noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of ASEP I. They also noted the establishment during the past decade of environmental protection agencies in ASEAN countries and their successes in initiating environmental protection measures and in developing their respective capabilities in environmental technology. The Ministers adopted a number of policy guidelines on: environmental management, nature conservation, marine environment, urban environment, environmental education and training, environmental information systems, involvement of NGOs and other organizations, and international cooperation.

8. In the Jakarta Resolution on Sustainable Development of October 1987, the Ministers recognized that developmental processes can only be sustained if the availability of natural resources is similarly ascertained. They resolved to adopt the principle of sustainable development, focus on common resources and issues that affect the common well-being of the ASEAN people and strengthen the institutional arrangements for ASEAN cooperation on environment. They stated that the strengthened arrangement should work on facilitating the incorporation of environmental considerations into the programmes and activities of ASEAN committees, monitoring the quality of environment and natural resources to enable periodic compilation of ASEAN state of environment reports, and enhancing cooperation on environmental matters.

9. The Kuala Lumpur Accord on Environment and Development issued by the ASEAN Ministers for the Environment in June 1990 agreed to focus on initiating efforts to enhance environmental management including formulation of an ASEAN strategy and action plan for sustainable development, harmonisation of environmental quality standards as well as transboundary pollution prevention and abatement practices and promotion of the use of clean technologies. They also agreed to initiate efforts to develop and harmonise natural resources assessment and natural resource and environment accounting systems.

10. The most recent statement on the environment was embodied in the Singapore Resolution on Environment and Development, which was adopted a month after the Singapore Summit in January 1992. The Resolution spelled out the different policies and strategies that each ASEAN member country must pursue in order to advance regional cooperation for sustainable development. More specifically, the Ministers agreed that each country should:

a) introduce policy measures and promote institutional development that will encourage the integration of environmental factors in all developmental processes;

b) work closely on the inter-related issues of environment and development;

c) cooperate in setting basic environmental quality standards and regulations at national level, work towards harmonised quality standards in the region, and adopt long term quantitative goals relating to ambient air quality and river water quality; and

d) harmonise policy directions and enhance operational and technical cooperation on environmental matters, and undertake joint actions to address the anti-tropical timber campaign.

11. The last policy underscores the necessity for joint regional action to counter the anti-tropical timber campaign launched by environmental NGOs and governments in the more developed countries to stop the importation of tropical timber. The success of such campaign would have a very adverse effect on the timber and wood industries of the region.

12. The Ministers likewise agreed that regional cooperation aimed at institutional development should include: the strengthening of the institutional and technical capability of national agencies to enable them to integrate environmental considerations in their development plans; cooperation in capacity building through regional training assistance programmes, regular exchange of information, and more frequent exchange of visits among officials and experts; and provision of adequate training to public and private organizations, including NGOs, to enhance their environmental management expertise and skills.

13. On technology cooperation, the Ministers agreed to continue cooperation on environmental technology by sharing technical information, undertaking joint training and research programmes, and exchanging expertise, and to promote appropriate and environmentally sound technologies as well as encourage support for such effort from the business and public sectors. They also agreed that efforts to promote public awareness on environmental issues should be continued in order to elicit broader public participation and support.

14. In light of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the Ministers also agreed to adopt an ASEAN common stand for the conference, which dealt among others, with ASEAN's position on the issues of climate change; implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances; protection of the oceans and seas; protection of freshwater resources; and sustainable management of all forests.

2.3 Institutional Arrangements

15. The objective of ASEAN is to promote regional cooperation to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development and peace and stability, and to provide assistance to each other in the form of training and research facilities and collaborate more effectively on issues of common regional interest such as trade and industry, transportation and communication and improvement of the living standards of the people.

16. The simplified organizational structure for ASEAN cooperation in the field of the environment is shown in Figure 1. It consists of the Heads of Government, the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME), the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN), the six ASOEN Working Groups and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The Heads of Government

17. The Heads of Government of member countries are the highest authority in the ASEAN structure. In the last Meeting of the ASEAN Heads of Government held in Singapore in January 1992, it was decided that the Heads of Governments would meet formally every three years with informal meetings in-between to give guidance on ASEAN's policy directions. The Singapore Summit likewise agreed that member countries should continue to play an active part in protecting the environment by continuing its cooperation in promoting the principles of sustainable development and integrating it into all aspects of development.

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME)

18. To promote ASEAN cooperation and ensure that the decisions of the Heads of Government relating to environment are carried out, the ASEAN Ministers for the Environment meet regularly at least once every 3 years. So far, the ASEAN Environment Ministers have met five times.

ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN)

19. The ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment (ASOEN) has the following functions and responsibilities:

a) recommend policy guidelines and, in general, provide "catalytic impetus" towards the implementation of the principles of sustainable development to ASEAN Governments and relevant ASEAN committees;

b) facilitate the incorporation of environmental considerations into the programmes and activities of ASEAN committees;

c) monitor the state of ASEAN's natural resources and the quality of the ASEAN environment;

d) promote ASEAN cooperation on regional environmental matters, focusing upon ASEAN's common seas and resources, land resources and land-based pollution, tropical forest, air quality, urban and rural pollution; and maintenance of genetic diversity;

e) promote ASEAN cooperation in international fora through a common stand for the purpose of promoting the transfer of clean technology and solving common global environmental problems, in cooperation with other government agencies, the private/business sectors, professional associations, NGOs, and other organisations; and

f) assist in obtaining financial support for ASEAN activities from within and outside ASEAN.

20. The ASOEN meets once a year to consider the reports of the Working Groups and provide operational policy guidance on the various environmental programmes being pursued.

The ASOEN Subsidiary Bodies

21. The cooperative programmes and projects of ASOEN are carried out through six Working Groups in the following areas: ASEAN Seas and Marine Environment, Environmental Economics, Nature Conservation, Environmental Management, Transboundary Pollution, and Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education. The Working Groups meet annually.

The ASEAN Secretariat

22. The ASEAN Secretariat was established in 1976 to provide for greater efficiency in coordinating the implementation of policies, projects and activities of the various ASEAN bodies. With the growing realization that ASEAN cooperation would have to be enhanced, the Singapore Summit decided that the ASEAN Secretariat should be strengthened and provided more resources. Accordingly, the Secretary General of the Secretariat has been designated as the Secretary General of ASEAN with ministerial status and an enlarged mandate to initiate, advise, and implement ASEAN activities.

23. The ASEAN Secretariat has four Bureaus, namely, Economic Cooperation, Economic Research, Functional Cooperation and General Affairs, each headed by a Director. Issues on the environment fall under the purview of the Functional Cooperation Bureau along with science and technology, culture and information, social development, and drug abuse prevention. With the expected increase in the coordinative activities of the Bureau, especially in the field of environment, there is need to further strengthen its present professional capabilities.

2.4 Brief Review of ASEP III

24. ASEP III, covering the period 1988-1992, succeeded ASEP II and continued some of the latter's projects as well as goals. It had the following overall objective: to promote the proper management of the ASEAN environment so that it could sustain continued economic development while maintaining a high quality of life for the people of the ASEAN countries. This objective was to be achieved by strengthening the institutional framework and organisational structure of ASEAN cooperation on the environment.

25. Thus, ASEP III adopted the following policy guidelines:

a) the promotion of cooperation on the environment among member countries, especially in identified priority areas;

b) integration of the environmental dimension into regional and national development planning and implementation;

c) strengthening of regional and national institutions to enhance their capability to implement environmental programmes and projects; and

d) cooperation with other countries and with international agencies for the purpose of promoting the transfer of technology and sharing experiences in the management and solution of environmental problems.

28. Included under ASEP III were 17 programme goals and 60 regional projects, divided, as in ASEP I and ASEP II, into six priority programme areas as follows:

a) Environmental management - This area dealt with the overall and integrated approach to the problems of the environment and the use of management tools such as environmental impact assessment and the application of advanced technologies, such as remote sensing, to solve these problems or at least mitigate their adverse impacts. It recognized the interdependence between environment and development and that one could not be sustained without the other.

b) Nature conservation and terrestrial ecosystems - This area derived its urgency from the abundance of natural resources in the region and the need to conserve them in the face of rapid economic growth in ASEAN, particularly in the manufacturing sector, but to a lesser extent also in the agricultural sector. Such development, while it had undoubtedly resulted in increased output and higher standards of living in ASEAN, had also exerted tremendous pressure on the region's forest, marine, water and other resources. Hence, it emphasized on the need for a rational and integrated approach to development and conservation.

c) Industry and environment - Rapid industrialization in ASEAN, with its concommitant increase in energy consumption, has not only strained the region's natural resources but has also contributed to the growing pollution problem, particularly in the urban areas. Some of the major products in the region such as palm oil, rubber and sugar, involve manufacturing processes that release considerable amounts of pollutive substances into the atmosphere. Collaboration among ASEAN member countries and between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners was therefore necessary in order to promote intra-ASEAN transfer and development of anti-pollution technology and the transfer of clean technology from the Dialogue Partners to ASEAN.

d) Urban environment - Related to, but separate from, the immediately preceding priority area was urban environment. Rapid population growth as well as uncontrolled migration from the rural to the urban areas has resulted to housing and traffic congestion, noise, dust, inadequate water and sewerage systems as well as garbage disposal facilities, and related urban problems. This situation in most urban areas in ASEAN was the rationale for the inclusion of urban environment as a fourth priority area of ASEAN cooperation.

e) Marine environment - This area was a recognition of the fact that the marine environment was under serious stress in ASEAN, whether it was for shipbuilding in Singapore, oil exploration and extraction in Brunei, or fishing in the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand. ASEAN cooperation was (and still is) necessary for the development, protection and rational exploitation of the region's marine resources and coastal areas.

f) Environmental Education, Training and Information - Ultimately, the most sound and solid basis for the protection of the environment and the conservation or rational exploitation of resources are people who are aware of the possible negative environmental implications of their actuation, not only for the present generation but for future generations as well, hence the importance of this area of cooperation.

27. Projects were selected and included in the above programmes on the basis of their relevance, regional character and relation to other projects. They were also selected on the basis of their being "interactive, integrative, and mutually supportive" of each other.

28. To further rank which projects could be funded under ASEP III, very high priority projects were subsequently identified using these criteria:

a) the project met the goal of sustainable development;
b) availability of project funding;
c) project did not require excessive resources;
d) project was carried over from ASEP II; and
e) project was goal-oriented as specified in ASEP III.

29. On this basis, twelve very high priority projects were selected. The list appears as Table 1.

30. ASEP III set as its target to implement 90% or more of its 60 projects, with at least 60% of them to be completed within the planning cycle 1988-1992. When completed, the 60 projects under ASEP III were expected to yield the following physical outputs:

- five guidelines;
- two manuals;
- one textbook;
- six management plans; and
- three sets of teaching/visual aids.

31. Other expected outputs include the conduct of thirteen regional training courses and numerous reports to be generated by the various pilot-demonstration projects and EIA studies.

32. A number of projects carried over from ASEP II were completed under ASEP III, namely:

a) Environmental Impact Study on Coal Fired Power Plants (renamed Programme Assessment of the Environmental Impact of Coal-Fired based Power Plants);

b) Technology Transfer on the Treatment of Effluent from Palm Oil and Rubber Industries;

c) Anti-pollution Control and Management in Fuel Gas Desulphurization and Control in ASEAN Region;

d) Development of Cooperative Action for Oil Pollution Combat;

e) Seminar on Toxic and Hazardous Waste; and

f) Regional Programme for the Training of Trainers on Environmental Education in the ASEAN Region.

2.5 Assessment of the Achievements

33. A review of ASEAN's environmental collaborative efforts indicates that ASOEN has substantially accomplished its mandate. For one, the development and evolution of ASEP Programmes provided a solid basis and further enhanced regional environmental cooperation. Perhaps the most significant contribution of the previous programmes was the maturing of the environmental agencies in the respective ASEAN countries. These accomplishments should be sustained and further developed in order to make them more attuned to the times.

34. Much work, however, would have to be done in the design, selection and prioritisation of programmes and projects as most of the previous activities were 'stand-alone' projects which have not fully contributed to long term ASEAN objectives. Partly contributory to the short-term nature of previous projects was the inadequacy of financing to support ASOEN's activities and also institutional deficiencies. As there was inadequate follow up mechanisms in the development of projects, proposals had a tendency to have long gestation periods. These shortcomings must be addressed by ASOEN through this Strategic Plan of Action on Environment. Focus will have to be on activities which are truly regional in character and can contribute to the long-term overall objectives of ASEAN.

3 NEW DIRECTIONS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

3.1 New Directions

3.1.1 ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA)

35. The January 1992 Meeting of the ASEAN Heads of Government in Singapore decided to establish an ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) over the next 15 years. AFTA will cover trade in manufactures, including capital goods and processed agricultural products. A Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) scheme will be established leading to a progressive reduction of tariffs to a 0-5 percent level by the year 2008. There are two programmes of tariff reduction under the CEPT Scheme: the fast track programme which targets the reduction of tariffs to 0-5 percent within 7 to 10 years; and the normal track programme which targets tariff reduction to 0-5 within 10 to 15 years. The 15 groups of commodities included in the fast track programme are: vegetable oils, cement, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, plastics, rubber products, leather products, paper pulp, textiles, ceramics and glass products, gems and jewellery, copper cathodes, electronics, and wooden and rattan furniture.

36. The link between international trade and sustainable development, where the latter is understood as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, is not always obvious. But there is such a link, namely, the common concern for improving resource allocation and quality of life.

37. Reduced tariff rates would increase ASEAN's competitiveness as a production base and stimulate intra-ASEAN trade in the 15 commodity groups. Increased trade would, in turn, improve the allocation of resources and increase output, employment and incomes.

38. But AFTA may not come as an unmixed blessing. Among the 15 commodities in the fast track, whose rates are to be reduced, are highly pollutive and/or natural resource consuming industries -- to the former belong chemicals, fertilizers, plastics, cement, paper and pulp, and leather and rubber products, and to the latter belong copper cathodes and wooden and rattan furniture. To the extent that increased intra-ASEAN trade in these commodities will lead to the more intensive exploitation of resources and/or the release of greater quantities of pollutants into the atmosphere as a result of increased manufacturing activities, to that extent the implementation of AFTA may not advance the goal of environmentally sound and sustainable development to which ASEAN also aspires.

/...

39. Indeed, there is a potential development dilemma that needs to be carefully addressed. On the one hand, the goal of sustainable development requires that poverty - which, despite progress made during the past two decades, remains a problem in ASEAN-- be reduced if not eradicated. Persistent poverty is one of the major causes of environmental degradation, as it increases pressure on natural resources (e.g. through deforestation, cultivation of marginal lands) and strains to limit the carrying capacity of urban ecosystems. Increased trade, through the higher incomes and greater employment that it provides, is a potentially powerful poverty-reduction measure, as the experience of the Newly Industrialized Economies (NIC) would show. However, where such trade involves natural resources either as traded goods or as inputs to manufacturing industries, it carries with it the danger of rapid resource depletion and increased pollution, and hence an unsustainable development.

40. How ASEAN policy-makers will resolve this dilemma will determine how the next generation will judge the recent decision to implement AFTA. The solution lies in translating the principle of environmentally sound and sustainable development into concrete policies and implementable programmes, inter alia, the application of environmental planning and assessment techniques and use of low- and non-waste manufacturing technologies.

3.1.2 ASEAN Common Stand on UNCED

41. During the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Singapore in 1992, ASEAN declared its common stand on UNCED. The declaration called for: urgent measures to combat climate change; immediate implementation of the Montreal Protocol Interim Multilateral Fund; protection of the ecosystems of oceans and seas from pollution; greater efforts to protect freshwater resources and ensure access for all people; sustainable management of all forests; conservation of biological diversity, support for the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; and support for the objective of the Prior-Informed-Consent (PIC) system under the Amended London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Banned or Severely Restricted Chemicals in International Trade.

42. To achieve the above, ASEAN has called for new and additional financial resources to meet the incremental cost of protecting the global environment; and for more funding for implementing sustainable development policies at the regional and national levels to be provided by developed countries. The establishment of basic environmental protection is also required. Appropriate technologies to achieve environmental standards must be identified and all means, financial as well as legal, to overcome patent laws should be made available to enable the transfer of such technologies.

3.1.3 Agenda 21 Programme Areas Relevant to ASEAN

43. Agenda 21 is an action plan for the 1990s and into the 21st Century. It reflects a global consensus and political commitment at the highest level in the government on development and environment cooperation and is intended to serve as basis for global partnership. Its successful implementation rests with the governments. However, international and regional cooperation and efforts are necessary to support its national implementation. It has been suggested that the broadest public participation and the active involvement of non-governmental organizations are essential prerequisites to these efforts.

44. Agenda 21 covers 115 programme areas. Since it is a distilled wisdom of all the governments, and the ASEAN region embodies a wide spectrum of environment and development issues, it is understandable that almost all the programme areas will have some relevance to ASEAN. It is ,however, impossible to capture all the issues and dimensions of Agenda 21 in this document. Hence Table 2 summarizes the more relevant chapters of Agenda 21 in the context of ASEAN collaboration.

3.2 Objectives

45. This Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment has the following five objectives:

a) to respond to specific recommendations of Agenda 21 requiring priority action in ASEAN;

b) to introduce policy measures and promote institutional development that encourage the integration of environmental factors in all developmental processes both at the national and regional levels;

c) to establish long term goals on environmental quality and work towards harmonised environmental quality standards for the ASEAN region;

d) to harmonise policy directions and enhance operational and technical cooperation on environmental matters, and undertake joint actions to address common environmental problems; and

e) to study the implications of AFTA on the environment and take steps to integrate sound trade policies with sound environmental policies.

3.3 Strategic Thrusts

46. To attain the objectives, the following strategies and actions will be pursued:

Strategy 1: Support the development of a regional framework for integrating environment and development concerns in the decision making process

47. Integrating environment and development concerns in decision making has been long recognized as a key element for promoting sustainable development. Successive ASEAN resolutions, declarations and decisions refer to this element as of vital significance. Efforts therefore have been initiated to meet these directives. But these efforts need to be consolidated and further refined if the intention is to apply them uniformly in the region. There is a necessity to develop a regional framework that will ensure the integration of environment and development concerns in the respective national decision-making processes. The elements of that framework include the following: a) institutional capability to make an integrated, forward looking and cross-sectoral approach in making decisions; b) appropriate policies and legal frameworks in place to undertake the task; c) sufficient technological base for use in decision making; and d) sound information and data base derived from monitoring and research.

Actions:

1.1 Continue support in the documentation of regional EIA experiences leading towards the harmonisation of procedures

48. Increasing efforts are being made by all countries to strengthen environmental impact assessment procedures and practices. Institutional and legislative frameworks have also been improved. There is a need to continue this process. Exchange of information and experience among ASEAN could provide a solid foundation for further work. With the launching of AFTA and the implementation of the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Scheme and the improved prospects for attracting greater investment flows in the region as a whole, increasing efforts should

be focused on the harmonisation of procedures in EIA. It would entail studies on the EIA procedures in different countries, identifying common and conflicting issues, proposing principles of harmonisation and coming up with a harmonised framework on EIA.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Management

1.2 Initiate activities that will make use of natural resource and environmental accounting studies and approaches

49. In recent years, governments and international organizations have made increasing efforts to collect environmental data. Most of these data are given in physical terms and some in monetary values. However, the gap between environmental data and macro-economic accounting systems remains almost unchanged. An important issue is how to expand existing systems of national economic accounts in order to integrate environmental and social dimensions in the accounting framework, including the use of satellite systems for natural resources. The resulting system of Integrated Natural Resources and Environment Accounting (INREA) to be established in ASEAN countries should be seen as complementing the existing national income accounting practices. INREA would be designed to play an integral part in national decision-making process. Some work in this field are being done in Indonesia and the Philippines. Based on international efforts and work done in ASEAN countries, guidelines may be prepared. These guidelines may be used for undertaking sectoral pilot studies in ASEAN countries and the system may be refined as necessary for wider application.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Economics

1.3 Establish procedures that would initiate the integration of environmental concerns in the various ASEAN programmes and activities

50. Another important issue in this area is the integration of environmental concerns in the programmes and activities of ASEAN. While it would be desirable to integrate environmental dimensions in the various ASEAN committees and other bodies, it may be difficult at this stage to undertake such a task, because of the complexity of the organisational structure and the limited technical and infrastructural support available from the ASEAN Secretariat.

51. It may, however, be possible to examine proposed projects and activities for the purpose of integrating environmental concerns. The mechanism for such an integration should be developed. One such mechanism could be the examination of relevant project proposals by the relevant sections of the ASEAN Secretariat with a view to providing inputs on environmental dimensions and likely mitigating measures. In any case, guidelines for integration of environmental concerns into ASEAN's activities will have to be prepared.

Responsible Working Units: Environmental Management

Strategy 2: Promote government-private sector interactions that lead towards the development of policies that mutually support the thrust of each sector

52. The recent decision of ASEAN to establish AFTA underscores the prevailing trend in regional trade cooperation embracing a liberal and market oriented system. The theory is that regional trade cooperation promotes efficiency in the allocation of resources and provides economies of scale and competition which induce increase in output, income and standard of living. Prior to AFTA, the region registered one of the highest GDP growth performance globally. The creation of AFTA will further accelerate this trend. The challenge ASEAN faces now is how to

reinforce the AFTA decision with mutually supportive environmental policies. In this regard, government institutions and industries would play major roles in developing sustainable societies. There should be consensus in the framing of policies that reinforce the thrust of each sector.

Actions:

2.1 Initiate studies on development of environmental and trade policies which are supportive to the principles of sustainable development

53. The implications of AFTA on sustainable development have already been cited. AFTA should seek to promote an open and non-discriminatory trading system that is consistent with the goals of sustainable development. Improved market access for ASEAN's export, in conjunction with sound macro-economic and environmental policies, should result in positive environmental impacts; and environment and trade policies should be made mutually supportive.

54. The commodity sector dominates the economies of ASEAN countries in terms of production, employment and export earnings. An important feature of the world commodity trade in the 1980s was the prevalence of very low and declining real prices for ASEAN commodities in international markets resulting in increased exploitation of natural resources to maintain commodity export earnings for some countries. The ability of these countries to mobilize, through international trade, the resources needed to finance investments required for sustainable development may be impaired by this development and by tariff and non-tariff barriers. The international trading environment has been affected by a number of regional developments that have created new challenges, such as the establishment of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Single European Market (SEM). These developments will have profound impact on development and environment in the ASEAN countries.

55. Therefore, studies should be initiated to better understand the relationship between trade and environment for the promotion of sustainable development in the ASEAN region. This should be reinforced with the establishment of a platform for dialogue between trade, investment, development and environment sectors of the ASEAN region. ASEAN has already developed excellent cooperation with the private sector through the ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ASEAN-CCI), the Business Council for Sustainable Development (BCSD), and the implementation of the ASEAN-US Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP).

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Economics

2.2 Establish mechanisms that encourage government and private sectors to adopt appropriate environmental standards backed up by sufficient economic incentives

56. The responsibility for ensuring industrialization that adheres to sustainable development principles rests between institutions, as regulators, managers and economic policy framers, and industry, as the implementor and principal source of technological know-how. These roles must be respected and supported by each other. Governments, as an institution, must establish environmental goals that do not retard growth but create the right climate that encourages industry to comply. The standards, while it can be updated regularly, should allow industry to seek the best practicable environmental alternative which technology can provide. This approach can be enhanced by reviewing existing policies and introducing incentives to industries and businesses that

ensure sustainable industrial processes, such as the promotion on the use of cleaner technologies, and waste minimization techniques, to mention a few. On the part of the industry, there should be commitment to sustainability and environmental excellence. They should show the public their desire to comply with the standards of environmental performance which they themselves could set voluntarily.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Economics

2.3 Set up government-private sector information linkages/networks to include information on technology, expertise and facilities for environmental management

57. Access to information on technology and expertise is crucial if industry is to comply with environmental standards. While there is no dearth of information that could be used by industry, the availability of that information and its quality are impediments that hinder the selection of appropriate alternatives to sustainable industrial processes. The government and private sector should collaborate in setting up information networks that can make the needed information readily available. The academic and the scientific community could be harnessed to play a role in this endeavor.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education

Strategy 3: Strengthen the knowledge and information data base on environmental matters

58. Environmentally sound and sustainable development requires that action is taken on the basis of objective, reliable and comparable environmental information. This calls for enhanced capability at national and regional levels to obtain sound environmental data, transform these data into meaningful information and share this knowledge among the various actors involved in implementing actions. This also implies that new demands will be placed on monitoring and information gathering systems on the basis of harmonized database and inter-calibration of existing monitoring systems. There is an effort by UNEP, through its Global Resource Information Database (GRID), to open a subregional window on environmental information collection and dissemination. ASEAN should take advantage of this opportunity and coordinate with UNEP in setting up this system with information stored at the ASEAN Secretariat and disseminated to member countries.

Actions:

3.1 Pursue the establishment of basic environmental quality standards leading to the setting up of harmonised quality standards in the region

59. The indicators of environmental quality could serve as good indices or guideposts for the state of the environment. With AFTA and the implementation of the CEPT, it is likely that industrialization in the ASEAN region will accelerate. If the environmental standards for air and water quality continue to be widely different in the region, it may lead to development of pollution havens or hot-spots. Anticipating the most likely impact of unsustainable industrialization, it may be prudent to already consider the establishment of long term goals for ambient air and water quality (both river and coastal). The major vehicle for achieving this will be the harmonisation of environmental quality standards in the region. This activity entails a substantial amount of capacity building through: training and the building up of an extensive network of monitoring stations; inventory of polluting sources; identification of the most pollutive industries; economic and industrial growth modeling; and institution building to enable exchange of information among member countries.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Management

/...

3.2 Identify centres of excellence for environmental R&D and eventually build them as focal points of environmental networks

60. Support should be given to the identification of centres of excellence undertaking environmental research and development (R&D) activities. This can be done by assessing the capacities and capabilities of existing scientific and research institutions dealing with environmental work and ascertaining their competencies. Once determined, programmes could be designed to upgrade these institutions with a view to eventually establishing them as focal points or environmental networks which could provide basic environmental information, training of human resources and strategic environmental research studies for policy formulation.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Management

3.3 Establish a mechanism for the preparation of periodic reports on the state of the region's environment

61. Periodic environmental performance reviews would help in promoting policy dialogue and exchange of information on national approaches and experiences in improving collective and individual performance regarding the attainment of national and regional goals vis-a-vis the international agreements. It could also assist in the identification of priority activities for regional action, help in strengthening national and regional capabilities for environmental management and policy evaluation, and play a useful role in monitoring and assessing regional and national environmental quality. The preparation of this report should be seen in the light of the requested submission of national reports by the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

Responsible Working Units: Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education

Strategy 4: Strengthen institutional and legal capacities to implement international agreements on environment

62. Agenda 21, identifies as a prerequisite to global participation on sustainable development, the strength of institutional and legal capacities of national and regional entities. As environmental issues now transcend beyond regional boundaries, the need to develop these capabilities in order to implement international agreements on environment as well as effectively participate in the negotiation of new international treaties and the review of existing ones, cannot be overemphasized. There are still many aspects of international law on sustainable development that merit development and appropriate interpretation to make them effective and binding. ASEAN, from a regional standpoint, should strengthen its institutional capacities to implement and its legal capacities to present its concerns and interests in international legal discussions on the environment.

Actions:

4.1 Undertake a comparative study on institutional structures and legislations on environmental management

63. There have been previous efforts to document and compile the various legislations of ASEAN relating to the environment. This documentation should be consolidated and be further expanded to cover the undertaking of a comparative study on the various institutional structures and legislations on environmental administration. ASOEN should seek financial support and assistance to undertake and complete this project.

Responsible Working Units: Environmental Management

/...

4.2 Establish capacities to support regional efforts to implement international agreements and participate effectively in the negotiation of new or revised agreements

64. There are a large number of international environmental treaties and conventions aimed at protecting the global commons, such as marine environment, biodiversity and the atmosphere, which ASEAN member countries have signed. Its effective implementation, however, is hampered owing to the various administrative, technical, economic and financial obstacles within ASEAN. While the individual countries are encouraged to study the implications of ratification, there may be a need to look into the regional ramifications of the treaties. ASOEN should build its capacities that would enable it to participate effectively in the negotiation of new or revised agreements.

Responsible Working Units: All Working Groups

4.3 Enhance collaboration with international bodies overseeing the implemention of international agreements and cooperation

65. As countries in the region implement the various international agreements, they are likewise becoming actively involved in international discussions such as in APEC and OECD. Hence, ASEAN needs to promote greater regional visibility with concerned international bodies or organizations. This could be achieved by strengthening its linkages and networking with these institutions and actively participate in activities that have relevance to the region. Depending on how ASEAN would be invited in these collaborative discussions, there could be a need to present a common ASEAN stand to enhance its regional position.

Responsible Working Units: All Working Groups

Strategy 5: Establish a regional framework on biological diversity conservation and sustainable utilization of its components

66. The ASEAN region has invaluable biodiversity and abundant natural resources comprising 30% of the world's tropical forests. During the last two decades, ASEAN countries have embarked on massive economic development activities aimed at raising the standards of living of its people. Consequently, however, the impacts of these activities have affected the region's biodiversity. Thus, capacities for assessment, study and systematic observation and evaluation of biodiversity need to be reinforced at national and regional levels. An effective national and regional action supported by international cooperation is required for the in situ protection of the ecosystems and the ex situ conservation of biological and genetic resources. Similarly, the establishment of a regional center on biodiversity conservation should be actively supported.

Actions:

5.1 Promote the development of a framework for the protection and conservation of heritage areas and endangered species

67. ASEAN has long recognized the importance of nature and biodiversity, and thus has designated areas that are to be preserved as national parks, nature reserves and heritage areas. Despite these management and monitoring efforts, the threat to these identified areas persists owing to continued habitat destruction, overharvesting, pollution and threats posed by the introduction of exotic species (both plants and animals) which either replaces or competes with the endemic species. The absence of a regional framework for the protection and conservation of

/...

heritage areas and endangered species, only exacerbates the situation as management efforts are left to individual member countries. There is a need to develop a framework for the protection of these areas and species so as to ensure that conservation approaches are rationalized.

Responsible Working Unit: Nature Conservation

5.2 Strengthen capacities for R&D to enhance biodiversity conservation in the region

68. Supportive to the identification of areas designated for biological diversity conservation are efforts to improve the knowledge and understanding of species found in these areas. It is accepted that knowledge on the status and distribution of many animal and plant species is still poor and inadequate. As a result, effective conservation measures cannot be implemented. ASOEN should invest in this field and seek assistance from the international community both in public and private sectors. Strong support to systematic and taxonomic research which ranges from undertaking surveys and inventories to monitoring wildlife movement and control should be pursued by the region.

Responsible Working Unit: Nature Conservation

Strategy 6: Promote the protection and management of coastal zones and marine resources

69. The marine environment is truly an ASEAN regional heritage, a fact that has been recognized from the very beginning of ASEAN cooperation. Among the first actions by the ASEAN countries, with catalytic support from UNEP, was the adoption of an Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the East Asia Region. The Southeast Asian seas are natural habitat for 2500 species of fish and invertebrates. They provide 11% of the world's supply of marine products and source of livelihood for many of the region's fishermen. All ASEAN countries have extensive fishing industries. Yet, many of the major near-shore fishing areas in the region are over-fished and polluted from land based sources and oil spills. The Straits of Malacca, for example, is one of the major shipping lanes for crude oil transport and is vulnerable to oil spills. There has been a notable increase in the occurrence of red tides which is attributed to domestic sources of pollution. This incidence poses not only a health hazard but also affects export earnings. Similarly, many mangroves are disappearing to make room for brackish water prawn farming, housing and industrial development. Coral reefs are also being degraded and require rehabilitation. Accordingly, there is an urgent need for a more coordinated, pro active and collective action to protect ASEAN's coastal zones and marine resources.

Actions:

6.1 Improve regional marine and coastal environmental coordination

70. Cooperation among the ASEAN countries in the field of marine science and marine environments have been carried out through three distinct regional bodies, namely, the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), the ASOEN Working Group on ASEAN Seas and Marine Environment (WGASME) and the COST Sub-committee on Marine Science (SCMS). While the WGASME and the SCMS are official ASEAN bodies, the latter being under the purview of the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (COST), COBSEA comes under the purview of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). There is a need to streamline these cooperative mechanisms, as they create unnecessary overlaps and confusion and fritter away scarce technical and financial resources.

Responsible Working Units: ASEAN Seas and Marine Environment
Nature Conservation

/...

6.2 Develop a framework for the integrated management of regional coastal zones

71. It is recognized that while several programmes have been developed on a bilateral and regional basis to protect and manage coastal zones in the region, these developments are not tied to any framework that could integrate its approaches on a regional basis. The impacts, therefore, of these programmes have been localized and its regional benefits have not been fully appreciated or felt. In order to enhance the effects of these activities, ASOEN could initiate the development of a framework for the integrated management of regional coastal zones. This framework could serve as a guide in the development of the respective coastal zone management interventions by member countries.

Responsible Working Units: ASEAN Seas and Marine Environment
Nature Conservation

Strategy 7: Promote environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes, and control of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes

72. With the continued rapid industrialization of the ASEAN economies and the trend in the transfer of highly polluting industries, the flow of toxic chemicals and dangerous products is bound to increase in the region. There is worldwide recognition that chemical contamination may result in grave damage to human health and the environment. It is therefore necessary to have good knowledge and assessment of these risks which is a prerequisite to planning for their safe and beneficial use, recycling and disposal. However, for a great number of high volume production chemicals, even basic data for risk assessment are generally lacking. ASEAN should now initiate action on effecting a regional management guide for the environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes.

Actions:

7.1 Establish regional guidelines for assessing highly pollutive industries and safe handling of potentially harmful chemicals entering the ASEAN region

73. The information exchange on toxic chemicals is of particular importance. In this regard, the UNEP London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade is a useful instrument, in particular those relating to the information on banned and severely restricted chemicals. Work carried out under the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC) and the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) should also be used. However, there is a need for greater national vigilance in controlling the relocation of toxic chemical industries into the ASEAN region. There may be a case for developing a regional guideline on assessing highly polluting industries and potentially harmful chemicals entering ASEAN.

Responsible Working Unit: Transboundary Pollution

7.2 Strengthen the information network on the transboundary movement of toxic chemicals and hazardous waste

74. There has been a notable achievement in this area within the ASEAN region over the past few years as evidenced by a number of cases relating to intra-ASEAN transboundary movement of hazardous waste. The identification of focal points helped in monitoring and regulating the movement of hazardous waste. This network should be further strengthened as movement of these substances is expected to increase. A regional protocol for the movement of toxic chemicals and hazardous substances consistent with the provision of the Basel Convention could be established.

Responsible Working Unit: Transboundary Pollution

Strategy 8: Develop a system for the promotion of environmentally sound technologies

75. Since the region is likely to face increasing challenges for controlling pollution and resource degradation, it is necessary to evolve a system for the promotion of environmentally sound technologies in the region. Pollution control techniques tend to transfer pollution from one medium to another, rather than eliminating it. Therefore, although these technologies may reduce some risks from certain factories, large scale transfer of such techniques may not prove beneficial to promoting regional environmental quality. Environmentally sound technologies are less polluting, use resources in a more sustainable manner, and recycle more of their by-products, residues and waste than the traditional technologies they replace.

Actions:

8.1 Establish linkages with existing clearing houses on environmentally sound technologies

76. There is currently no comprehensive, independent and reliable mechanism for obtaining information on technologies which can help governments evaluate environmental impacts of investments. Although activities have been initiated to set up international clearing houses for identifying dirty technologies or preventing their transfer, its network has not yet been fully operationalized. Under these circumstances, investors present their own technologies as environmentally advanced, even though these may be discredited in other countries. ASOEN should therefore take the initiative in linking with these clearing houses on environmentally sound technologies available in the market so as to enable member countries to choose which appropriate technologies can be allowed in the region.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education

8.2 Establish mechanisms that identify end users of R&D results and encourage the participation of private sector

77. These actions have bearing on the efforts of the ASEAN-COST to identify end-users of R&D outputs and to entice private sector involvement. Researches on environmental or environmentally friendly technologies may also be considered as part of the science and technology agenda. ASOEN through its Working Groups in collaboration with COST, should initiate discussions with industry and solicit their support to co-finance environmental R&D projects that have potential for commercialization.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education

8.3 Strengthen linkage and coordination with other ASEAN committees such as COST doing related R&D work on the environment

78. As there are common interests between COST and ASOEN, these two bodies of ASEAN should interact more often to mutually support its respective thrusts. The Working Groups and Sub-committees should develop mechanisms to jointly pursue complementary programmes which would benefit ASEAN as a whole.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education

/...

8.4 Support the promotion of indigenous technologies or technologies that have been adapted to regional needs

78. There are existing environmentally friendly technologies utilized by industry which have been locally adapted from foreign technologies or indigenously developed. Its widespread application, however, is hampered by the inadequacy of support in promoting its use. ASOEN in collaboration with COST may develop mechanisms whereby these technologies can be made available to the regional market.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education
Environmental Management

Strategy 8: Promote regional activities that strengthen the role of major groups in sustainable development

80. The region's ability to develop sustainably depends on the capability and capacity of its people to understand complex environment and development issues and to choose the best development alternative. As people would need to have the information and expertise to understand the potential limits of the environment, institutions have the responsibility of making these information available and easily understood. The mechanisms for achieving this objective vary depending on the level of information required. Nonetheless, efforts should be made by ASOEN to bring the result of its various programmes to the ASEAN public either through formal approaches or on an informal basis. ASOEN should establish mechanisms that will motivate, educate, train and build capacities especially among the identified major groups under Agenda 21.

Actions:

9.1 Support the publication of regional environmental magazines and newsletters

81. There is a need to increase public sensitivity to environment and development issues and involvement in finding solutions to environmental problems. Further, the sense of personal environmental responsibility and the desire for greater involvement and commitment need to be fostered towards sustainable development. Increased public awareness and participation in environmental decision making are important for the success of environmental policies. It is therefore necessary to make available accurate and authentic information on ASEAN environment and development issues to all sectors of the society. This can be achieved through the regular publication of regional newsletters and information materials. The ASEAN Secretariat should be provided with the needed resource to enable it to collect and edit articles, monographs and papers for the ASEAN Environment Newsletter to be issued on a bi-annual basis.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education

9.2 Strengthen regional information network and promote exchange of expertise on environmental education programmes

82. Environmental education is very important in sensitizing people, particularly students, as it helps in developing the right environmental ethic and building environmentally responsive and responsible society. There should be initiatives taken to share environmental education modules that have been developed at the national levels to enrich the knowledge of environmental educators and trainers in the region. To enhance their capabilities exchange programme of environmental education, experts could be established. ASOEN may consider tapping potential public and private institutions who have expressed willingness to support this endeavor.

Responsible Working Unit: Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education

/...

9.3 Develop strategic programmes of action that will strengthen the role and participation of major groups on environmental management and decision making

83. As recommended in Agenda 21, the region should evolve a strategy for effectively involving NGO's, local bodies and other sectors in promoting sustainable development. As a start, ASOEN should consider representation of some of the major groups in a number of its programmes.

Responsible Working Units: All Working Groups

Strategy 10: Strengthen the coordinative mechanism for the implementation and management of regional environment programmes

84. As mandated by the Jakarta Resolution on Sustainable Development, ASOEN should facilitate the incorporation of environmental considerations into the programmes and activities of ASEAN committees. This would require a review of all ASEAN committees' activities and projects to assess their environmental implications and suggest measures for environmental protection and improvement. To be able to do this and at the same time implement programmes of this Strategic Plan of Action on Environment, ASOEN would need strong coordinative support from the ASEAN Secretariat. This will require substantial time on the part of the professional staff of the Secretariat. Since ASOEN's activities are expected to increase in the near future, support should be given to the ASEAN Secretariat to enable it to upgrade its capacities. This may mean augmenting the existing number of professional staff in the Environment Unit.

Actions:

10.1 Establish an operational system at the ASEAN Secretariat for planning, monitoring and facilitation of the implementation of environmental projects

85. While the Plan of Action identifies several programme areas, projects will need to be developed in all areas. The various Working Groups have already done some work in this direction, but these will have to be refined into a harmonized framework. With the expansion of mandate of the ASEAN Secretariat, these projects will have to be monitored and some coordinated and implemented by the Secretariat. This will require strengthened in-house project management capability.

Responsible Working Unit: ASEAN Secretariat

10.2 Source and match funding requirements for proposed projects

86. Agenda 21 recognizes that very large investments are needed to implement its sustainable development programmes. Since financial resources are scarce, it is imperative that a set of criteria for selecting and prioritizing programme areas and projects under this plan be developed. It is noted that under ASEP III a set of criteria was used to rank projects. There may be a need for ASOEN to review this ranking criteria. This would also mean that the necessary network and linkages with financing institutions and sectors should be developed and enhanced.

Responsible Working Unit: ASEAN Secretariat

/...

4 INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

4.1 Institutional Requirement

87. Ten strategic thrusts and twenty-seven actions have been identified. Many of these actions have strong inter-linkages and the activities should be implemented in close coordination with one another. Indeed, the approach to environmental issues should be cross-sectoral and comprehensive. To operationalize these strategic thrusts and actions, institutional adjustments should be undertaken, namely:

a) The capacity of the ASEAN Secretariat should be strengthened as discussed in Strategy 10. The ASEAN Secretariat should play an active supportive and coordinative role in the implementation of all actions identified in this Plan. While it is recognized that the Secretariat may not have sufficient resources to augment its present staff, it could explore arrangements with multilateral agencies supportive to the organization to have professionals seconded to the Secretariat to help ensure the implementation of this Plan.

b) ASOEN Working Groups should start preparing the necessary adjustments in their programmes and activities consistent with the identified strategic thrusts. Table 3 is a summary matrix of working groups vis a vis the strategic thrusts.

4.2 Financing the Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment

4.2.1 Cost-sharing Arrangements

88. The inadequacy of funds to support the various programmes and projects of ASOEN remains the main limiting factor in attaining its objectives. As evident from the previous plans, while many project proposals were developed, donors did not support the proposals either due to limited funds or they did not fall within the donors' priority areas for assistance. On the other hand, these proposals were developed precisely on the basis of their importance to the region. Some of these project proposals could be important enough to be considered for implementation even without external funding. Accordingly, ASOEN should explore ways of generating funds to support such priority regional activities. A cost-sharing scheme or arrangement among participating member countries should be explored and devised to make these funds available. The ASEAN Secretariat should initiate studies to look into the feasibility of the cost-sharing scheme.

4.2.2 The ASEAN Fund

89. The ASEAN Fund was established in 1969 to finance ASEAN collaborative projects, programmes and activities approved by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers. Since its establishment, the Fund has been largely unutilized owing to the complex and cumbersome procedures stipulated in the 1969 Agreement governing the Fund. The ASEAN Standing Committee (ASC) has taken initiatives to address these problems and has most recently asked the ASEAN Secretariat to come up with recommendations to improve the utilization of the Fund. The Fund will initially consist of US$6 million with contributions of US$1 million from each member country. In general, ASEAN collaborative projects approved by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers through the ASC are eligible for financing under the Fund. More specifically, the four categories of activities eligible for financing under the Fund are those that:

a) promote ASEAN cooperation or perspective;

b) are confidential or strategic in nature;

/...

c) require co-financing and counterpart funding from ASEAN; and

d) are priority projects not qualified for Dialogue Partner funding.

90. The Fund will give priority to urgent, short-term activities of a strategic or confidential nature and which are considered fundamental in building a stronger cooperative ASEAN infrastructure. There are some possibility in attracting this Fund in specific strategic areas such as trade and environment issues.

4.2.3 The ASEAN Sub-regional Environment Trust (ASSET)

91. The ASOEN and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding which authorizes WWF to develop proposals, enter into discussions with donors on behalf of ASOEN, and later on to provide assistance in the actual establishment and implementation of ASSET. ASSET could be designed along the lines of the more than 15 Trust Funds that were established with the technical assistance of WWF. Two avenues are being explored for ASSET: a free-standing trust fund that is not related to any project and one that is dedicated to the financing of the ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action of the Environment. The first approach is similar to the ASEAN Cultural Fund. For the second approach, it is advisable to explore the pooling of contributions of ASEAN Dialogue Partners into ASSET with projects based on the Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment. The ASEAN Plan of Action on the Environment would attract donor support since attention has been given to transboundary protected areas, migratory terrestrial and marine species, and GIS-based biodiversity information systems.

4.2.4 Project-related Funds

a) Funding from Dialogue Partners

92. The support of Dialogue Partners to ASEAN's environmental programmes has not been as strong as would have been expected, considering their overall commitment to environmental protection. UNEP and UNDP have been generally instrumental in getting many ASEAN projects off the ground and completed. UNEP catalyzed the preparation of ASEP documents and funded many workshops, seminars, study tours and training programmes. UNDP supported projects on transboundary pollution problems and environmental education. Australia, the U.S and New Zealand have also supported ASEAN's environment programmes. Australian assistance was provided to projects under the Working Groups on Environmental Management and ASEAN Seas and Marine Environment, while US support focused on projects of the Working Group on Environmental Management. New Zealand assistance was obtained for projects of the Working Group on Transboundary Pollution.

93. Despite UNDP and other Dialogue Partners support for ASEAN efforts on the environment, implemented and completed projects have fallen short of the goals of the various programmes and the sense of urgency expressed in several resolutions on the environment. Percentage of funds earmarked for environmental programmes by the Dialogue Partners against their total contribution to the Functional Cooperation programmes and projects have been very low, for instance, Australia - 5%; USA - 9% and UNDP 12%. As cited in the Report on the UN ESCAP Mission to ASEAN Member Countries in September 1991 "the uncertainty of the source of funds for ASEAN regional environmental projects has consistently afflicted ASEAN cooperation in the environmental field".

/...

94. It may however, be noted that with regard to Dialogue Partner funding, it has become clear that donors are moving away from the traditional donor-recipient relationship into one of mutual and equal partnership with preference for supporting projects from which economic benefits can flow to the industrial and private sectors. Some Dialogue Partners have also expressed the need for ASEAN countries to increase their contribution to collaborative projects through cost-sharing or co-financing schemes. This notwithstanding, there is some scope for enhancing the assistance from the Dialogue Partners to fund this Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment, including the possibility of establishing a trust fund with Japanese support similar to the existing ASEAN Cultural Fund.

b) Global Environment Facility (GEF)

95. The Global Environment Facility was conceived to support projects that address global environmental issues, particularly ozone depletion, climate change and biodiversity. The Facility is currently managed by the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP. Discussions are now underway on the second phase of the GEF, i.e. GEF II, to make it a more democratic environmental funding mechanism with universal membership, a voting arrangement acceptable to both developed and developing member countries, and - if current expectations are met - a budget nearly double that of its three-year pilot phase. ASOEN should tap the GEF for funding its projects

c) Asia Sustainable Development Fund

96. The Asian Development Bank has established the *Asia Sustainable Development Fund* which will have US$ 100 million capital to invest in companies undertaking sustainable development projects in the Bank's developing and newly-industrialized member countries. ASEAN should similarly tap this Fund for its projects, particularly those that involve the private sector.

5 CONCLUSION

97. The past economic performance of the ASEAN countries have indicated its capacities to achieve growth. This trend is likely to continue as these countries industrialize, especially with the implementation of the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA). ASEAN as a whole is conscious that growth without due regard to environment cannot be sustained in the long term. Thus, environment ranks high in the priority of ASEAN leaders and officials. As proof of this, ASEAN has made seven major declarations/resolutions on the environment in just slightly over a decade since the first one in Manila in 1981. ASEAN has come out with three major programmes (ASEPs I to III) of regional cooperation on the environment. But the environmental challenge remains; more so as ASEAN endeavors to maintain its competitive edge in the global economic area. The impetus provided by the Earth Summit, the mandate from the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the leadership provided by the Commission on Sustainable Development, and the guidance from Agenda 21, provide reason that ASEAN can meet these challenges. The Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment reflects these perspectives. Its objectives could only be achieved through the strong commitment and continued support of the Governments of ASEAN member countries.

•••

Action Plan for ASEAN Environment Year 1995

The Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment held in Bangkok, Thailand on 6 - 8 July 1993 decided to designate the year 1995 as the ASEAN Environment Year (AEY). National and regional activities will be conducted throughout the year 1995. The Action Plan for AEY is as follows:

1. Objectives

1.1 To highlight ASEAN environmental issues and cooperative programmes in order to stimulate awareness of these issues among the ASEAN populace.

1.2 To broaden the participatory process in the area of the environment in ASEAN.

1.3 To stimulate regional activities in the environment area.

2. Promotional Theme

"ASEAN Environment Year 1995 : Green & Clean"

3. Official Opening

Launching of AEY on January 1st, 1995 should be set by each ASEAN member country.

4. Logo for ASEAN Environment Year

Logo for AEY should be used for promotional materials and activities. Thailand will propose a logo(s) which will incorporate the ASEAN logo for concurrence by the working group of AEY by July 1994.

5. Pre-launching Activities

5.1 Press kit : Brunei Darussalam will prepare a press kit which will be available to ASEAN member countries for release during the launching of AEY 1995.

5.2 Promotional campaign : Each ASEAN member country is encouraged to undertake promotional campaign through the mass media.

/...

6. ASEAN Environment Year Activities

6.1 Regional Activities

6.1.1 Meetings/ Seminars/ Training Workshop such as :

- ASEAN meetings/workshops with participation from NGOs and private sectors.
- Environmental Camp(s) for ASEAN Youth.

6.1.2 Campaigns/Exhibitions. Emphasis will be given to the theme of AEY 1995: Green and Clean.

- International trade fair for environmentally sound and friendly products and technologies.
- Roving exhibitions of various competitions of ASEAN wide photo competition, art competition and essay competition in ASEAN capitals.

6.1.3 Public Relations

- Exchange of publicity materials such as videos, pamphlets, radio clips etc., among ASEAN member countries.
- Dissemination, as widely as possible, of publications on ASEAN countries' achievements and future directions in environmental management.
- Promotion of the theme "ASEAN ENVIRONMENT YEAR" in all ASEAN and national activities in 1995.

6.2 National Activities

The following activities are recommended for implementation at the national level:

6.2.1 Organisation of EXPO(s) on environmentally-friendly products.

6.2.2 Exhibition of environmentally sound technology and equipment.

6.2.3 Organisation of various competitions including art, essay, photo etc. on environmental topics.

6.2.4 Production of various public information materials for radio, television, campaign, exhibition etc.

/...

6.2.5 Production of stamps, souvenirs, coins, telephone cards on AEY theme.

6.2.6 Participation of the public and private sectors in AEY activities.

6.2.7 Organisation of an AEY concert.

6.2.8 Organisation of campaigns such as : clean water campaign, nationwide battery collection campaign, collection of hazardous waste from domestic sources campaign, intensive environmental education and awareness campaign, clean up campaign, tree planting campaign, waste minimization and recycling campaign.

6.2.9 Leadership training of environmental volunteers.

7. Recommendations

7.1 Working Group on Environmental Information, Public Awareness and Education (WGEIPAE) will be the coordinator of this Action Plan. They shall meet to discuss the detail as soon as possible.

7.2 The launching should be led by the highest level of official possible of each ASEAN country.

7.3 WGEIPAE may seek assistance from ASEAN Secretariat or other sources for funding of regional activities.

/...

ASEAN HARMONIZED ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STANDARDS

AMBIENT AIR QUALITY

Long-term Goal

To achieve an ambient air quality below 100 Pollutant Standards Index (PSI) by the year 2010 with priority on urban and industrialised areas.

RIVER WATER QUALITY

Long-term Goal

To achieve the following river water quality by the year 2010 with priority on urban and industrial areas:

pH	:	6.0 to 8.5
DO	:	2 mg/l or more
BOD	:	10 mg/l or less
TSS	:	200 mg/l or less

Bandar Seri Begawan Resolution on Environment and Development Bandar Seri Begawan, 26 April 1994

RECOGNISING that in line with the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which provided the impetus for sustainable development, ASEAN should promote the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and actively implement Agenda 21;

CONSIDERING that economic growth and environmental management are inseparable and crucial to sustaining and further improving the quality of life of the people of ASEAN;

REALISING that international and regional cooperation and efforts are necessary to support the national and regional implementation of Agenda 21;

FURTHER REALISING the necessity to strengthen and enhance regional cooperation in the management and control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes into and within the ASEAN region; and

CONSCIOUS that ASEAN member countries share common environmental aims and objectives and that the state of the environment lies ultimately in the hands of the people of ASEAN themselves;

WE, THE ASEAN MINISTERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HEREBY AGREE:

1. To adopt and implement the ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on the Environment to attain the following objectives:

   (a) to respond to specific recommendations of Agenda 21 requiring priority action in ASEAN;

   (b) to introduce policy measures and promote institutional development that encourage the integration of environmental factors in all developmental processes both at the national and regional levels;

   (c) to establish long term goals on environmental quality and work towards harmonised environmental quality standards for the ASEAN region;

/...

(d) to harmonise policy directions and enhance operational and technical cooperation on environmental matters, and undertake joint actions to address common environmental problems; and

(e) to study the implications of AFTA on the environment and take steps to integrate sound trade policies with sound environmental policies.

2. To declare 1995 as the ASEAN Environment Year to highlight ASEAN environmental issues and cooperative programmes, and to stimulate awareness of these issues among the ASEAN populace; broaden the participatory process in the area of the environment in ASEAN; and stimulate regional activities in the area of the environment.

3. To adopt a set of Harmonised Environmental Quality Standards for ambient air and river water quality and implement the needed measures to attain these standards by the year 2010.

4. To strengthen cooperation among ASEAN countries to ensure the effective implementation of the decision of the Second Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

Done in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, this
Twenty-sixth Day of April
in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-four.

.....

PENGIRAN DATO SERI PADUKA DR. HAJI ISMAIL
BIN PENGIRAN HAJI DAMIT
Minister of Development
Brunei Darussalam

.....

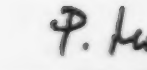
MR SARWONO KUSUMAATMADJA
State Minister for the Environment
Indonesia

/...

DATUK LAW HIENG DING
Minister of Science, Technology and the Environment
Malaysia

MR ANGEL C. ALCALA
Secretary
The Department of Environment & Natural Resources
The Philippines

MR MAH BOW TAN
Minister for Communications and Minister for the Environment
Singapore



MR PREECHA MUSIKUL
Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Environment
Thailand

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.17/1994/18
12 May 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Second session
16-27 May 1994
Item 8 of the provisional agenda*

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

Letter dated 4 May 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the report of the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Global Forests (see annex), which was held in Kuala Lumpur from 18 to 21 April 1994. The meeting was jointly organized and sponsored by the Governments of Canada and Malaysia.

The objective of the initiative undertaken by Canada and Malaysia is to facilitate dialogue and consolidate approaches to the management, conservation and sustainable development of the world's forests, leading to the review of forest-related issues by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its session in 1995. The second meeting of the Working Group is scheduled to be held in Canada in October 1994.

I would be grateful if you could make arrangements to circulate the attached report as an official document of the Commission on Sustainable Development under item 8 of the agenda for its second session.

(Signed) Razali ISMAIL
Ambassador

* E/CN.17/1994/1.

Annex

Report of First Meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Global Forests Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18-21 April, 1994

Forest issues have emerged as a priority on the international socio-economic, environment and trade agendas. The Non-legally binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, commonly known as the Forest Principles, as well as Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 agreed to at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in June, 1992, together constitute the first international consensus on forests. The Forest Principles, therefore, serve as a useful basis for an international agenda on forests. Forests are also an important consideration in the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as a number of other chapters of Agenda 21.

Following UNCED, it was agreed that the newly established United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) would review at its 1995 session the progress made in implementing forest related commitments made at UNCED. At the 14th Commonwealth Forestry Conference, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in September, 1993, Prime Minister Mahathir of Malaysia proposed the establishment of an intergovernmental working group on forests to facilitate the UNCSD review of forests in 1995. Subsequently, the Governments of Malaysia and Canada agreed to jointly sponsor such a working group. The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Global Forests (IWGGF) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 18-21 April, 1994.

Forest experts, technical and policy, from fifteen countries, three intergovernmental organizations and four non governmental organizations, participated in the first meeting of the IWGGF (Annex 1). They were drawn from all continents and reflected a wide range of socio-economic as well as ecological conditions.

Furthermore, many IWGGF participants have been, or are also, engaged in other international forest-related initiatives, such as the Global Forest Conference held in February, 1993 in Indonesia, the Forestry Forum for Developing Countries held in India in September, 1993, the Indo-U.K. forest initiative, the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and its follow-up (Helsinki process) and the follow-up to the Seminar of Experts on the Sustainable Development of Temperate and Boreal Forests held under the auspices of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Montreal process). The meeting also recognised the useful role to be played by international organisations in this regard.

At the outset of the meeting, it was stated that the IWGGF was not a negotiating forum, but rather an opportunity for some countries, intergovernmental organizations and non governmental organizations, actively involved in the global

/...

dialogue on forests, to discuss important forest issues with a view to promoting an effective review at the 1995 session of the UNCSD. The purpose of the IWGGF is not to dwell on the technicalities of forest issues, but to recognize, *inter alia*:

a) the inter-relationships among key forest issues;

b) the need for national action to be supported by international action; and

c) the need to streamline, coordinate and expedite follow-up action on the Forest Principles and Agenda 21.

Forests are important to the socio-economic and environmental well-being of both developing and developed countries. In formulating the agenda for the First meeting of the IWGGF the organizers recognized that the forest agenda is very broad and complex and, therefore, identified five items for discussion:

a) Forest Conservation, Enhancing Forest Cover and the Role of Forests in Meeting Basic Human Needs;

b) Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management;

c) Trade and Environment;

d) Approaches to Mobilizing Financial Resources and Technology Transfer; and

e) Institutional Linkages.

These five issues were recognized in the Forest Principles and Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 and were viewed by the organizers as the core of forest related concerns in most parts of the world.

The first meeting of the IWGGF discussed a wide range of forest concerns, from meeting basic human needs at local levels to a holistic approach to conservation, sustainable management, environment and trade issues at national and international levels. Through the active participation of all those who attended, the meeting in Kuala Lumpur was fruitful in contributing to the framework of actions on forests to be considered by UNCSD.

The participants recognized that there were other issues relating to forests that also required the attention of the international community and these should be addressed in processes leading up to the UNCSD Review on Forest Issues in 1995. Of the additional issues proposed at this meeting (Annex II) it was agreed that two issues (i) Participation and Transparency in Forest Management and (ii) Comprehensive, Cross-sectoral Integration, Including Land Use Planning and Management and the Influence of Policies External to the Traditional Forest Sector, will be deliberated at the Second Meeting of the IWGGF.

/...

Background papers on the issues discussed at the First IWGGF meeting, prepared to stimulate discussion, will be further developed by taking into account the wide range of views expressed and issues identified in order to define better these issues and their implications for national and international actions. At the Second Meeting of the IWGGF, to be held in Canada in October, 1994, the revised issue papers will be further reviewed and commented on by the participants so that a summary of these deliberations and conclusions reached can be presented for the consideration of the UNCSD in 1995.

The participants emphasized the pressing need for coordinated efforts to implement more effectively the Rio commitments on forests at the national and international levels. The participants stressed the urgency for adequate preparations for the discussions on forest issues to take place at the UNCSD session in 1995 and that accordingly, the High-level (Ministerial) segment of the May 1994 UNCSD session should:

- take note of the various initiatives being undertaken including those by various international organisations, in preparing substantively for the 1995 UNCSD session;

- encourage transparency of these various processes and their outcomes;

- define priorities for consideration and action at the UNCSD in 1995; and

- promote appropriate coordination and recognize the need for a broadly based preparatory process that would consider the inputs from these various initiatives;

The participants at the meeting wish to bring the IWGGF initiative to the attention of the UNCSD in May 1994 and note that it takes into account the other initiatives on forests. The IWGGF is aimed at:

a) facilitating preparations for international action toward realizing the commitments made at UNCED on forest issues, and

b) taking stock of the changing situation at national and international levels, which is useful to promoting practical international cooperation.

This initiative should help promote global partnership towards sustainable development and sustainable management of the world's forests and better protection of the Earth.

Kuala Lumpur,
MALAYSIA
21 April, 1994

/...

Appendix I

FIRST MEETING OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON GLOBAL FORESTS
18 - 21 APRIL 1994
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

LIST OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES/ORGANISATIONS

1. CAMEROON
2. CANADA
3. CHILE
4. CHINA
5. FINLAND
6. GERMANY
7. GHANA
8. INDIA
9. INDONESIA
10. JAPAN
11. RUSSIA
12. SWEDEN
13. UNITED KINGDOM
14. UNITED STATES
15. MALAYSIA
16. COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (CSD)
17. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION (FAO)
18. INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANISATION (ITTO)

/...

19. INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES (IUCN)

20. BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (BCSD)

21. WORLDWIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF)

22. SIERRA CLUB

23. INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (IISD)

Appendix II

NON-PAPER ON SIGNIFICANT ISSUES NOT YET GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION BY THE IWGGF

IWGGF has requested an enumeration of the key issues which, so far, have either been missed or inadequately addressed by the IWGGF process. An informal contact group has met to discuss this question, and input has been received from several delegations. The following topics were identified. It is recommended that, before adjournment of its first session, the IWGGF should decide how these issues will be addressed.

1 **EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN FOREST MANAGEMENT DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES BY ALL STAKEHOLDERS** [UNCED Forest Principles, 2(d), 5(b)]

2 **FULL PUBLIC ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL INFORMATION** [Forest Principles 2(c)]

3 **COMPREHENSIVE, CROSS-SECTORAL INTEGRATION, INCLUDING LAND USE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT AND THE INFLUENCE OF POLICIES EXTERNAL TO THE TRADITIONAL FOREST SECTOR** [Forest Principles 3(c), 8(e), 9(c), 13(d), 13(e)]

4 **PROTECTION OF THE CUSTOMARY RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS AND OTHER FOREST-DEPENDENT PEOPLES** [Forest Principles 5(a)]

5 **EQUITABLE RESOLUTION OF LAND TENURE CONFLICTS** [Forest Principles 5(a)]

6 **USE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT** [Forest Principles 8(h)]

7 **DEVELOPMENT OF METHODOLOGIES FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE VALUATION OF FOREST GOODS AND SERVICES** [Forest Principles 6(c)]

Another important procedural matter has been raised which concerns not only how the product of the IWGGF will be used, but whether the IWGGF or any other initiative will be productively incorporated into the UNCSD's review of forests:

* **HOW TO HARMONIZE THE SEVERAL, INTERNATIONAL FOREST-RELATED INITIATIVES LEADING INTO THE UNCSD's 1995 REVIEW OF FORESTS, SO THAT THEY ARE COMPLEMENTARY AND MUTUALLY SUPPORTING**

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.17/1994/19
12 May 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Second session
16-27 May 1994
Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda*

REVIEW OF SECTORAL CLUSTERS, FIRST PHASE: TOXIC CHEMICALS AND HAZARDOUS WASTES

Letter dated 6 May 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that the attached documents regarding the International Conference on Chemical Safety, as called for in programme area G of chapter 19 of Agenda 21 (paras. 19.75 and 19.76), convened by the Executive Heads of the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, and held in Stockholm from 25 to 29 April 1994 at the invitation of the Government of Sweden, be circulated as documents of the Commission on Sustainable Development under item 6 (b) of the agenda for its second session.

(Signed) Peter OSVALD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Sweden
to the United Nations

* E/CN.17/1994/1.

IPCS/ICCS/94.8
29 April 1994
Original: English

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHEMICAL SAFETY

Stockholm, Sweden
25-29 April 1994

FINAL REPORT

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHEMICAL SAFETY
Stockholm, 25-29 April 1994

REPORT

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

1. In response to the invitation of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) Agenda 21 to further consider the establishment of an intergovernmental forum on chemical safety, the Executive Heads of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Labour Office (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) convened the International Conference on Chemical Safety (ICCS), which was held at the invitation of the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden in Stockholm, 25-29 April 1994. Representatives from 114 countries together with those from United Nations bodies, Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) took part in the Conference.

2. In the presence of His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, Mr O. Johansson, Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources, Sweden, welcomed participants. Mr Johansson noted the importance of the meeting in the follow-up process to UNCED and the role and responsibilities of all governments, organizations, industry, individuals - in achieving sustainable development. Introductory addresses were made by Dr H. Nakajima, Director-General, WHO, Mr P. Gopinath, Assistant Director-General, ILO, Mr J. Huismans, Assistant Executive Director, UNEP, and Professor Dr K. Töpfer, Minister of the Environment, Nature Protection and Nuclear Safety, Germany, thanking the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden for their generosity in hosting the conference and extending appreciation to governments who helped ensure the broadest possible participation in the Conference. Reviewing the chemical safety programmes of their respective organizations, each emphasized the importance and priority currently given the area. Agenda 21 has called for increased coordination both within and outside the United Nations system. Building on the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) as the nucleus, work is well underway to strengthen and improve the coordination of the efforts of international organizations. WHO, as one of the three partners in IPCS, has pledged increased support to the collaborative programme, and offered to host an interim Secretariat for the proposed Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

3. The Rules of Procedure of the World Health Assembly, suitably modified for the circumstances, were adopted for the Conference. The Conference elected as its officers: Dr K. Niblaeus (Sweden) as President; Dr D. Ogaram (Uganda), Dr P.M.B. Cyril (Sri Lanka), Mr A.J. Santos (Brazil) and Professor D. Mavoungou (Gabon) as Vice Presidents; and Dr N. King (UK) as Rapporteur.

4. The Agenda, document IPCS/ICCS/94.1, was adopted without modification.

SETTING THE SCENE

5. Dr M. Mercier (Director, IPCS) presented the paper "Setting the Scene", document IPCS/ICCS/94.2, outlining the events leading to the Conference and emphasizing that the proposed Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety was not meant to be a new institutional body but rather part of a mechanism for coordination of national and international work in the field of chemical safety.

MESSAGES ADDRESSED TO THE CONFERENCE

6. Ms E. Barsk-Rundquist, United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (UN/DPCSD) read a message on behalf of Mr N. Desai, Under-Secretary General, UN/DPCSD, which placed the Conference in the context of preparation for the deliberations of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), at its Second Session, on implementation of UNCED Agenda 21, Chapter 19.

7. Dr C. Cortinas de Nava (Mexico), at the invitation of the President, spoke about some of the problems and opportunities facing developing countries in relation to chemical safety. She called for the creation of machinery which would respond to these problems, particularly at the regional and sub-regional levels, and which would enable the exchange of experience at these levels.

8. Mr M. Strong (Chairman of the Earth Council) addressing the Conference stressed the ongoing nature of the UNCED process and the importance of this Conference in the implementation of Agenda 21. He welcomed the broad spectrum of participation from countries of all regions, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the spirit of UNCED.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON CHEMICAL SAFETY: TERMS OF REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

9. The document IPCS/ICCS/94.3, "Draft Terms of Reference for an Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety", was introduced by Mr J. Huismans, who drew attention to two fundamental issues, namely the nature of the Forum as a non-institutional arrangement and the type of Secretariat support needed for such a Forum. Dr C. Pinnagoda (Chief, Occupational Safety and Health Branch, ILO) presented document IPCS/ICCS/94.4, "Administrative and Financial Matters Concerning the Forum". He identified the main issues for consideration, namely the arrangements for the Secretariat for the Forum, both for an interim and long-term period, and the financing of the meetings of the Forum, its subsidiary structure and a Secretariat to service the Forum.

10. In discussion, the Conference agreed that these proposals were broadly acceptable although many valuable suggestions were made which improved and strengthened the texts. Many delegations emphasized the need to have strong regional and sub-regional elements in the structures and work of the Forum. Some delegations emphasized that the resources needed for the Forum should not be provided at the expense of the scientific work of the IPCS. Several delegations, including those of Belgium, Finland and Norway, indicated their readiness to provide new resources. A range of views was expressed on some important aspects of the proposals. These included the relationship of the Forum and its Intersessional Group (ISG) to the proposed strengthened IPCS; whether or not a Secretariat for the Forum should be functionally distinct from (but co-located with) the IPCS Secretariat; the frequency of sessions of the Forum; voting procedures; languages to be used; the size and composition of the ISG; the procedure for calling meetings of the ISG; and finances and resources. The resolution of the particular issue concerning the size and composition of the ISG was greatly assisted by the intervention of Ambassador B. Kjellén (Sweden) (IPCS/ICCS/CRP.1). With the assistance of a small informal working group led by Mr I. Fuller (USA), all these issues were satisfactorily resolved. Note was taken by the Conference of the active role which needs to be played by the non-governmental organizations in implementing Agenda 21, particularly in relation to the strengthening of social groups. The issues of enhancing the NGO participation in the work of the

Forum were addressed in this context. On a proposal from Kenya[1], a resolution on the establishment of an Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, including the revised Terms of Reference, was adopted by the Conference (IPCS/IFCS/94.Res.1).

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

11. The Conference paper "Implementation of Agenda 21: Chapter 19 Discussion Paper on Priorities for Action" (IPCS/ICCS/94.6) was introduced in plenary by Dr R. Lönngren (IPCS Consultant). The recommendations as drafted were broadly accepted. Several issues were of concern in all programme areas: the regional specific nature of situations and priorities; the role and responsibilities of the industrial sector, employers and workers; and making maximum use of existing systems and work of intergovernmental organizations. Access to adequate information on chemical safety is a high priority. In particular it was emphasized that the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition should be included in the priorities of the developed countries. Many useful suggestions were incorporated into a revised text. Several offers were made for implementing specific recommendations, including the hosting by the United States of a workshop in early 1995 to establish a list of chemicals for risk assessment by the year 1997. On a proposal from Poland, the Conference adopted a resolution on Priorities for Action in Implementing Environmentally Sound Management of Chemicals, as amended in Plenary (IPCS/IFCS/94.Res.2).

12. Declarations in support of the Forum and its work, including the need for both regional and subregional representation, were made by Chile on behalf of fourteen Caribbean and Latin American countries, Nigeria on behalf of the African group, and Kuwait on behalf of the Asian group. Declarations were also made by Germany, Greece on behalf of the European Union, Japan, Namibia, the Slovak Republic and South Africa, as well as by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in support of the Forum. Furthermore, several NGO's, including the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI), the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), the International Union of Pharmacology (IUPHAR), and the International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX), offered their technical support to the work of the Forum.

ELECTION TO OFFICES OF THE FORUM AND ITS INTERSESSIONAL GROUP

13. The Conference, in accordance with paragraph 6 of the Terms of Reference, elected the following Government Participants to provide the following officers of the Forum: Sweden for President; China, Mali, and Mexico for Vice-Presidents; and the Russian Federation for Rapporteur. In accordance with paragraph 7.2 of the Terms of Reference the following were elected as Government Participants to the Intersessional Group: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Gabon, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. In the context of paragraph 7.2 it was understood by the Conference that any of the 26 Government Participants to the ISG may agree to have another Government Participant substitute for it. In this regard the President indicated that she had been informed that Tonga will substitute for the Republic of Korea in subsequent sessions of the ISG in the second half of the period between this Forum and the 1997 Forum.

---

[1] Speaking on behalf of Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Japan, Kuwait, Mali, New Zealand, Nigeria, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

14. The Conference stressed that Participants of the Intersessional Group would be expected to establish an active network of information and consultation among countries of the region or sub-region from which they come.

TRIBUTE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN

15. On a proposal introduced by Brazil[2], the Conference adopted a Resolution (IPCS/IFCS/94.Res.3) paying tribute to the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden for hosting the Conference and for providing such excellent facilities and hospitality.

16. At the same time the appreciation of the Conference was expressed to those other countries and the European Commission which had generously contributed to its preparation and enabled a wider participation in its work. The valuable work undertaken by Dr M. Mercier (Director, IPCS) and the IPCS staff in preparation for and during the Conference, was also acknowledged.

CONFERENCE REPORT

17. The Report of the International Conference on Chemical Safety (IPCS/ICCS/94.8) was accepted as read by the Rapporteur, subject to subsequent completion and editing by the Rapporteur and the Secretariat. The final Report, including the Resolutions, will be sent to all participants.

TRANSMISSION OF THE REPORT TO THE SECOND SESSION OF THE CSD

18. The President stated that the Conference Report and the resolutions attached to it will be communicated to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its next session (New York, 16-27 May 1994).

CLOSURE OF THE CONFERENCE

19. Ms E. Dowdeswell, Executive Director, UNEP, addressed the Conference on behalf of the three sponsoring organizations, stressing the need to turn words into actions, particularly at the regional level. As the Task Manager of Agenda 21, Chapter 19, UNEP has a particular role to play and welcomes the possibility of other organizations, in addition to ILO and WHO, joining a strengthened chemical safety programme. The identification of priorities within the areas of Chapter 19 was one of the most important outcomes of the Conference.

20. Mr O. Johansson, Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources, Sweden, addressed the Conference stating that week that the foundation had been laid for world-wide chemical safety. Sweden will transmit the outcome of the Conference to the CSD in the hope that they will endorse and consider how the decisions can be implemented at the national, regional and international levels.

21. The President thanked the participants and closed the Conference thereby declaring, in accordance with Resolution 1, that the Conference had been the first session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety.

---

[2] Speaking on behalf of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Mali, Nigeria, Oman, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

ANNEXES TO THE REPORT

Resolutions adopted by

the International Conference on Chemical Safety

IPCS/IFCS/94.Res.1
29 April 1994

Resolution on the establishment of an Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety

The International Conference on Chemical Safety,

Having met in Stockholm, at the invitation of the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden, from 25 to 29 April 1994 at a Conference convened by the Executive Heads of the International Labour Office, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization,

Being aware that a substantial use of chemicals is essential to meet the social and economic goals of the world community and of the need to achieve sustainable development,

Aware also of the potentially harmful impact on human health and the environment that adverse effects of chemicals may cause,

Mindful of the relevant and fruitful work which has been carried out at the national level, and by a great number of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to promote chemical safety,

Having regard to the recommendations of the Meeting of Government-designated Experts held in London, 16-19 December 1991 to discuss draft proposals for an intergovernmental mechanism for chemical risk assessment and management,

Having regard to the invitation by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in paragraph 76 of Chapter 19 of Agenda 21 to further consider the recommendations of the London Meeting and initiate action on them, as appropriate,

Determined to promote environmentally sound management of chemicals to ensure that chemicals be used with the highest degree of safety,

Convinced that a strengthened direct cooperation between all those concerned in the field of chemical safety would offer new opportunities to provide policy guidance, identify priorities and develop strategies in a coordinated and integrated manner, and provide the required political support and foster understanding of the issues,

Noting with appreciation the generous offer of the Director-General of the World Health Organization to offer the Organization's facilities and provide an interim Secretariat for the Forum,

1. ***Decides*** to establish the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and to adopt the terms of reference as given in Annex I.

2. ***Invites*** the Executive Heads of the International Labour Office, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, as well as of other intergovernmental organizations that may participate as cooperating organizations in a strengthened International Programme on Chemical Safety, to make the necessary interim and longer term arrangements, for a cost-effective Secretariat for the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, bearing in mind the offer made by the Director-General of the World Health Organization and as permitted by resources.

3. ***Recommends*** with respect to the above that the Secretariat for the Forum should be within, but functionally distinct from, the Secretariat for a strengthened International Programme on Chemical Safety and that its work should not jeopardize the scientific and technical work carried out within the framework of the International Programme on Chemical Safety.

4. ***Considers*** that the administrative and financial estimates contained in Annex II provide a reasonable basis for the interim and longer term arrangements for the Forum.

5. ***Invites*** the Director-General of the World Health Organization, in consultation with the Executive Heads of the cooperating organizations, to provide for the establishment of a Trust Fund for voluntary contributions that will finance the costs related to the Forum including those activities of the Secretariat related to the Forum.

6. ***Recommends*** that the Forum conduct a full review of the organizational, administrative and financial aspects of the Forum, as well as an assessment of its effectiveness, for consideration by the third session of the Forum.

7. ***Declares*** that, for the purpose of commencing the work of the Forum, this Conference shall, at its completion, be considered as though it were the first session of the Forum.

ANNEX I

INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON CHEMICAL SAFETY

Terms of Reference

1. - Purpose and Aims

1.1 The Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (hereinafter called 'the Forum') is a non-institutional arrangement whereby representatives of governments meet, in accordance with paragraph 3, to consider and to provide advice and, where appropriate, make recommendations to governments, international organizations, intergovernmental bodies and nongovernmental organizations involved in chemical safety on aspects of chemical risk assessment and environmentally sound management of chemicals.

1.2 The purpose of the Forum is to provide policy guidance with emphasis on regional and sub-regional co-operation, develop strategies in a coordinated and integrated manner and foster understanding of the issues, and to promote the required policy support needed to discharge these functions.

1.3 The Forum will seek consensus amongst decision makers representing governments on the development of strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21, Chapter 19 (Environmentally Sound Management of Toxic Chemicals Including Prevention of Illegal International Traffic in Toxic and Dangerous Products) and undertake periodic review of such strategies.

1.4 The Forum shall provide:

(a) clear and consistent advice for cost-effective, integrated risk assessment and management of chemicals using environmentally sound and generally accepted principles, including advice on alternatives to banned or severely restricted chemicals;

(b) improved delineation and mutual understanding of roles, initiatives and activities both within and among governments and international organizations having responsibilities for chemical safety.

2 - Functions

The functions of the Forum shall be to:

(a) identify priorities for cooperative action on chemical safety, advise and, where appropriate, recommend concerted international strategies for hazard identification and risk assessment of chemicals, including occupational exposure, and for environmentally sound management of chemicals, including risk reduction programmes and risk communication, particularly taking into account the special needs of developing countries;

(b) assist in securing the collaboration, through governments, of national, regional and international bodies active in the field of chemical safety, and avoid any duplication of effort in this area;

(c) promote the strengthening of national coordinating mechanisms and of national capabilities and capacities for chemicals management, especially in relation to infrastructure building, training, education, research and monitoring, and provision of information;

(d) promote international agreements and commitments on harmonized classification and labelling of chemicals;

(e) assist in identifying gaps in scientific knowledge and promote information exchange and scientific and technical co-operation, including training, and education and technology transfer;

(f) review periodically the effectiveness of relevant ongoing activities to implement recommended international strategies concerning chemical safety and make recommendations for further activities and, where necessary, advise on the strengthening or establishing the necessary follow-up mechanisms;

(g) advise governments in their work on chemical safety with particular reference to legislative aspects, promote cooperation among governmental, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and encourage the appropriate distribution of work among organizations and other bodies within and outside the United Nations system in as clear and consistent a way as possible;

(h) promote the strengthening of national programmes and international cooperation for the prevention of, preparedness for, and response to chemical accidents including major industrial accidents;

(i) promote the strengthening of programmes for the prevention of and response to poisoning by chemicals; and

(j) perform other functions in pursuance of the purposes and aims of the Forum, as agreed by the Government Participants.

3 - Participation

3.1 All Member States of the United Nations, of its Specialized Agencies and of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) shall be invited to participate in the Forum ("Government Participants"). Associate Members of any of the Specialized Agencies shall also be invited to participate, without the right to vote, in the Forum.

3.2 Relevant United Nations bodies and Specialized Agencies, as well as intergovernmental organizations representing regional geographic, political and economic groups of countries involved in the field of chemical safety ("Intergovernmental Participants"), shall be invited to participate, without the right to vote, in the Forum.

3.3 International nongovernmental organizations concerned with health, workers' interests, the environment, consumers and industry, involved in the field of chemical safety and having official relations or consultative status with any of the Intergovernmental Participants shall be invited to participate, without the right to vote, in the Forum ("Nongovernmental Participants").

3.4 The term "participants" in these Terms of Reference refers to all of the above governments, Associate Members and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.

4 - Government Representation

The representative of each government should be a senior official concerned with chemical safety, including health and environmental issues. Each representative may be accompanied by advisers as appropriate. It is expected that governments would ensure that their delegations reflect the full range of national interests.

5 - Sessions

Subject to the availability of funds, it is expected that after its inaugural session, subsequent sessions of the Forum will be held: a session to review progress on chemical safety prior to the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in 1997 concerning implementation of Agenda 21, and a session by the year 2000, *inter alia*, to review progress on Chapter 19. The need for further sessions would be reviewed at that time.

6 - Officers

At each session, the Forum shall elect, from among the representatives of the Government Participants, Officers consisting of a President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur. They shall hold office until their successors are elected.

7 - Intersessional Group

7.1 There shall be an Intersessional Group of the Forum.

7.2 The Intersessional Group shall consist of the Officers of the Forum and not more than 26 Government Participants elected by each session of the Forum taking into account equitable regional and geographical representation. Other participants shall be entitled to participate, without the right to vote, in meetings of the Intersessional Group.

7.3 The Intersessional Group shall meet between sessions of the Forum in order to provide advice to the cooperating organizations of the International Programme on Chemical Safety and to deal with the work of the Forum between meetings. In particular, the Intersessional Group may make recommendations to the Forum, study special problems, and advise on the implementation of strategies and programmes as approved by the Forum.

7.4 Sessions of the Intersessional Group may be convened by the President in consultation with the Officers of the Forum as often as necessary and appropriate. The Intersessional Group shall normally meet immediately prior to and following each session of the Forum.

8 - Ad hoc Working Groups

Subject to the availability of funds, the Forum or the Intersessional Group may establish *ad hoc* Working Groups of Government and other agreed Participants for a set period of time to undertake specific tasks. Other participants shall, in accordance with the decisions of the Forum or the Intersessional Group establishing the *ad hoc* Working Group concerned, participate, without the right to vote, in meetings of the *ad hoc* Working Groups.

9 - Secretariat

The Forum, the Intersessional Group and *ad hoc* Working Groups shall be served by a Secretariat provided by a strengthened IPCS in a manner to be agreed.

10 - Decisions

10.1 The Forum, the Intersessional Group and *ad hoc* Working Groups shall proceed by consensus among the Government Participants. If consensus cannot be reached on administrative and procedural matters, a vote may be taken. Each Government Participant shall have one vote. Such decisions shall be taken by a majority of those Government Participants present and voting. For the purposes of these Terms of Reference, the phrase "Government Participants present and voting" means Government Participants casting a valid affirmative or negative vote. Government Participants abstaining from voting are considered as not voting.

10.2 Elections of Officers of the Forum shall be decided by consensus; where consensus cannot be achieved, the election shall be decided by secret ballot.

11 - Procedures

The Forum shall adopt, and may, at any session, amend its own rules of procedure. The Intersessional Group and the *ad hoc* Working Groups shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure adopted by the Forum.

12 - Agenda

The Secretariat, in consultation with and under the guidance of the President of the Forum, shall prepare a Provisional Agenda for each session of the Forum. Any participant in the Forum may request the Secretariat to include specific items in the Provisional Agenda prior to its distribution. The Provisional Agenda shall be communicated to all participants in the Forum at least two months before the opening of the session. After the communication of the Provisional Agenda and before the adoption of the Agenda by the Forum, only items of an important and urgent nature may be proposed by participants.

13 - Budget and Expenses

13.1 The Intersessional Group shall prepare for consideration by each session of the Forum an estimate of expenditure related to the Forum, the Intersessional Group, *ad hoc* Working Groups established by the Forum and a Secretariat, together with information concerning expenditures for the period since the last Forum. This estimate, with such modifications as may be considered appropriate by the Forum in the light of potential funding, shall subsequently be considered in the budget of the Forum.

13.2 Any types of expenses related to participation in the Forum, the Intersessional Group or *ad hoc* Working Groups that are to be borne by participants shall be specified by the Forum.

14 - Reports

The Forum and the Intersessional Group shall consider and adopt a report at each of their sessions embodying the recommendations adopted. A statement summarizing minority views will be included

in the reports, when appropriate. The reports will be circulated to all participants in the Forum and, through appropriate channels, communicated to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

15 - Languages

The working languages of the Forum shall be Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. The working languages of the Intersessional Group and *ad hoc* Working Groups shall be determined by the Officers of the Forum.

ANNEX II

CORE BUDGET FOR AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM ON CHEMICAL SAFETY AND ITS SECRETARIAT[1]

Introduction

1. There are two parts to the core budget for an Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) namely, the resources required to hold meetings of the Forum, its Intersessional Group and other subsidiary arrangements and resources for the Secretariat which would service the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements.

Meetings of the Forum and its Subsidiary Arrangements

2. Concerning the meetings of the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements, costs would include meeting facilities, interpretation and translation. Assuming a host government or organization provides the meeting facilities, the estimated costs of the Forum will depend on the length of the meeting and the number of languages used. Estimates have been made for a 4 day and a 5 day meeting of the Forum (plenary sessions only) and for 3 UN languages (English, French, Spanish), 4 UN languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian) and 6 UN languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese)and for a 3 day meeting of the Intersessional Group (plenary session only) with either 3 UN languages, 4 UN languages or 6 UN languages. The costs of these various alternatives are given in Tables I, II and III respectively.

---

[1] Cost estimates will be updated by the Secretariat as required.

ESTIMATES OF MEETING COSTS (in US$)

FORUM

4 DAY ESTIMATE[2]

TABLE I[3]

	3 LANGUAGES (E,F,S) (6)*	4 LANGUAGES (E,F,R,S) (8)*	6 LANGUAGES (A,C,E,F,R,S) (14)*
INTERPRETATION	14,200	25,600	56,800
TRANSLATORS	4,800 (3)*	6,400 (4)*	11,200 (6)*
BILING/STENOS	4,800	6,400	11,200
MISC. EXPENSES (Documents, etc.)	4,000	4,000	4,000
EQUIPMENT, ETC.	4,000	4,000	4,000
TOTAL	36,800	46,400	87,200

5 DAY ESTIMATE

TABLE II[3]

	3 LANGUAGES (E,F,S) (9)*	4 LANGUAGES (E,F,R,S) (12)*	6 LANGUAGES (A,C,E,F,R,S) (20)*
INTERPRETATION	36,000	48,000	80,000
TRANSLATORS	6,000 (3)*	8,000 (4)*	15,000 (6)*
BILING/STENOS	6,000	8,000	15,000
MISC. EXPENSES (Documents, etc.)	5,000	5,000	5,000
EQUIPMENT, ETC.	5,000	5,000	5,000
TOTAL	58,000	74,000	120,000

---

[2] The Conference suggested it would be cost effective that the Forum held 4 rather than 5 day meetings.

[3] It has been assumed that for the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements, expenses incurred in connection with travel and attendance would be borne by each participant. A host or other governments or assistance agencies might cover participation costs of delegates from developing countries, from countries with economies in transition, or from non-governmental organizations. For information, it may be noted that the estimated costs for participation in the Stockholm Conference of some 100 delegates is approximately US$400,000. Should a donor offer to cover the participation costs of developing country delegates to a meeting of the intersessional group an estimated US$60,000 would be required.

* (..) number of interpreters or translators required

INTERSESSIONAL GROUP

3 DAYS

TABLE III

	3 LANGUAGES (E,F,S) (6)*	4 LANGUAGES (E,F,R,S) (12)*	6 LANGUAGES (A,C,E,F,R,S) (20)*
INTERPRETATION	14,200	19,200	33,600
TRANSLATORS	3,600 (3)*	4,800 (4)*	7,200 (6)*
BILING/STENOS	3,600	4,800	7,200
MISC. EXPENSES (Documents, etc.)	2,400	2,400	2,400
EQUIPMENT, ETC.	2,000	2,000	2,000
TOTAL	25,800	33,200	52,800

Secretariat

3. The Secretariat would be responsible for servicing the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), whose main role is to provide an arrangement for consultation among governments and international organizations in the implementation of strategies for environmentally sound management of chemicals. The Secretariat would also be responsible for servicing any subsidiary arrangements which the IFCS would establish, such as its Intersessional Group. The Secretariat would need to prepare for both the meetings of the IFCS and its Intersessional Group, and ensure that the decisions of the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements were implemented. While the Secretariat resources required would depend on the work proposed by the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements, a basic minimum level of resources would be necessary for the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements to operate.

(i) Secretariat for a fully operating Forum with Subsidiary Arrangements

4. For the Forum when fully functioning after the interim period it is proposed that the basic minimum of resources might consist of:

a) The Head of the Unit, who would be responsible for the policy aspects and be required to liaise with governmental, international, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations. The appointment should be at a sufficiently senior grade for this person to have easy and direct access to senior policy makers within governments and international organizations. The person should have some governmental experience of chemical policy making. It is proposed that it should be an appointment at UN director level.

b) A Senior Programme Officer, who should have good technical knowledge and expertise in the field of chemical safety, particularly in relation to international work, and whose main tasks would be to supervise the preparation of technical documents and other material for the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements, as well as to follow-up at the technical and programming level, the decisions of the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements. This person would need to liaise closely with those responsible in a strengthened IPCS for ensuring coordination of international activities in relation to

specific programme areas of Agenda 21, Chapter 19. It is proposed that the appointment should be a UN grade P5.

c) A Technical Officer, who should have experience with computer science and communications technology as well as knowledge in the field of chemical safety, and who could promote enhanced rapid information flows among countries and international organizations in relation to the work of the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements. It is proposed that this appointment be at UN grade P.3.

d) Two Secretaries to support the work of the head of the Secretariat, the senior programme officer and the technical officer. The ability to work in English and at least French or Spanish would be essential. It is proposed that these appointments be at the UN grades G3/4.

e) Consultants and Technical Service Contracts in order to prepare technical documents for the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements. It is proposed that an average of 12 person months per year would be required.

f) Temporary Staff - The Secretariat work load may vary and be particularly heavy in the months prior to the meeting of the Forum or the Intersessional Group. Provision should be made for the possibility of employing temporary staff, particularly at the secretarial level.

g) Travel - The head of the Secretariat and the senior programme officer will need to consult with governments, international organizations and consultants, which will call for duty travel. All staff may need to travel in relation to the meetings of the Forum and its subsidiary arrangements.

h) Materials and Supplies - There would be an initial investment required for office equipment, plus regular maintenance and expendable office supplies.

The budget for this fully functioning Secretariat is estimated to be $819,000 (see Table IV). The Secretariat would need to operate in the context of an existing organization, which would provide office space and support facilities, as well as documentation reproduction and translation services. The standard charge for services of this type within the UN system is 13% of the budget, i.e. approximately US$106,587 per annum. This would give a total of US$926,487. The details are given in Table IV.

(ii) Interim Arrangements

5. During the transitional period from establishment of the Forum until the second meeting of the Forum, e.g. from May 1994 to end of 1996, if the Forum Secretariat were to be associated with an existing Secretariat such as the IPCS Secretariat, it may be feasible to combine the functions of the staff with existing duties such that half time was spent in support of the Forum. This would reduce the costs of the core Secretariat to US$615,794 per annum including programme support costs (see Table IV). Beyond 1996, depending on the work proposed by the Forum, it would be necessary to have full time staff. The details are given in Column (ii).

6. While it should not be expected that an existing international Secretariat should provide the Forum Secretariat without the necessary additional resources, these resources need not necessarily all be in direct cash terms. For example, certain staff positions could be provided through secondment, paid by a donor government. Certain services may be provided in kind.

TABLE IV

	(i) Fully Functional Secretariat (From 1997)		**(ii) Interim Arrangements (May 1994 to 1996)**	
Personnel	Man months	US$ p.a.	Man months	US$ p.a.
Head of the Unit (D2)	(12mm)	162,000	(6mm)	81,000
Senior Programme Officer (P5)	(12mm)	138,600	(6mm)	69,300
Technical Officer (P3)	(12mm)	107,900	(6mm)	53,950
2 Secretaries (G3/4)	(24mm)	141,400	(12mm)	70,700
Temporary Staff		30,000		30,000
Consultants (12 m/m)	(12mm)	120,000	(12mm)	120,000
Duty Travel		60,000		60,000
Materials and Supplies		60,000		60,000
		819,900		544,950
Programme Support Costs (13%)		106,587		70,844
		926,487		615,794
		====		====

IPCS/IFCS/94.Res.2
29 April 1994

Resclution on Priorities for Action in Implementing Environmentally Sound Management of Chemicals

The International Conference on Chemical Safety,

Having met in Stockholm from 25 to 29 April 1994, at a Conference convened by the Executive Heads of the International Labour Office, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, and hosted by the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden,

Having adopted the Terms of Reference for an Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety,

Noting the endorsement by the Meeting of Government-designated Experts held in London, 16-19 December 1991 of priority areas for an international strategy for the environmentally sound management of chemicals,

Recognizing the recommendation in Chapter 19 of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and endorsed by resolution 47/190 of the United Nations General Assembly in December 1992, to strengthen significantly national and international efforts in the following six programme areas:

(a) Expanding and accelerating international assessment of chemical risks;

(b) Harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals;

(c) Information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks;

(d) Establishment of risk reduction programmes;

(e) Strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals;

(f) Prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products.

1. ***Adopts*** the recommendations on priorities for action for the effective implementation of the above six programme areas as set forth in the Annex to this resolution;

2. ***Urges*** all participants in the Forum to cooperate to the fullest extent possible, particularly on a regional basis, in the effective implementation of the recommendations set forth in the Annex;

3. ***Decides*** that a report on the progress made in implementing the above recommendations be presented to the next session of the Forum.

ANNEX

Priorities for Action

Introduction

1. While Agenda 21 gives the overall objectives of the six programme areas and suggestions for their implementation, the adopted recommendations indicate priorities for immediate actions and goals to be achieved in the longer term. Agenda 21 states that its successful implementation is first and foremost the responsibility of governments. Accordingly, the given recommendations are first of all dealing with priorities for action by governments, but several of them regard work by which international bodies may develop effective tools for use by governments.

2. Close cooperation between international organizations and governments, and the development and strengthening of cooperation at the regional level are in a great number of cases important means to enhance significantly the result of recommended actions.

3. National implementation of international agreements on chemical safety should be encouraged.

4. At the national level, an efficient coordination of the work on chemical safety by concerned sectors is a prerequisite for successful results. Active participation of employers and workers, mobilization of the nongovernmental sector, and strengthening of the community right to know are important factors for increased chemical safety.

5. Much of the work to strengthen chemical safety has been carried out by several United Nations bodies and programmes, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Union, a number of countries, industries, trade unions and other NGOs, resulting in many useful tools for improvement of chemical safety. An expanded knowledge and use of these means should be promoted.

6. Adequate and good quality information on scientific, technical, economic and legal matters are essential for the sound management of chemicals. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition have particular problems in this regard. Bilateral technical assistance, transfer of technology, and other kinds of support should be increased in order to accelerate their development.

7. In all programme areas, there is a need for education and training. Efforts to satisfy this need should be carefully coordinated, and emphasis should be put on training the trainers.

8. Risk reduction activities should take into account the whole life-cycle of a chemical, and chemical controls and pollution control initiatives should be closely integrated. Where relevant, the precautionary approach, as outlined in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration, should be applied.

9. Special attention should be paid to occupational safety and health problems caused by chemicals, primarily in the interest of protecting workers' health. In addition, epidemiological and other data based on human experience have always proven to be valuable with respect to other chemical-related problems.

10. When determining priorities for risk management, the implementation of these will be dependent upon the chemicals management capabilities of individual countries. When setting priorities for international activities, high priority should be given to those where achievement of goals can occur only when action is carried out at the international level. Activities leading to greater efficiency and cost savings, e.g. sharing of risk assessment reports of adequate quality, should be promoted. Completion of work where significant initiatives are well underway should have priority before initiating new programme activities.

11. Major actions undertaken should be monitored to assess progress.

12. The order in which the following recommendations are presented does not indicate various degrees of importance.

Programme area A: Expanding and accelerating international assessment of chemical risks

1. Needs for different types of health and environmental risk assessments should be identified and criteria for setting priorities for the various types of risk assessments should be agreed. Applying these criteria, an initial list of chemicals (including those of high production volume) for risk assessment by the year 1997 should be established as soon as possible.

2. Harmonized approaches for performing and reporting health and environmental risk assessments should be agreed as soon as possible. Such protocols should be based on internationally agreed principles to permit the full use of risk assessments performed by both national authorities and international bodies.

3. An inventory of risk assessments that are planned, in preparation or completed should be established before the end of 1994.

4. Industry should be encouraged to generate and supply data required for risk assessment to the greatest possible extent.

5. Human exposure data, and good quality health effects data from developing countries, should be generated.

6. Taking into account the results of the activities recommended in items 1 and 2 and making full use of the evaluations produced by United Nations bodies, OECD, and others, 200 additional chemicals should be evaluated by 1997.

7. If the target in item 6 is met, another 300 chemicals should be evaluated by 2000.

8. The general principles for establishing guidelines for exposure limits, including the setting of safety factors, needs to be harmonized and described. Countries should establish guidelines for exposure limits for humans and for particular environmental compartments for as many chemicals as possible, taking into account the harmonization efforts and the potential use of such guidelines.

9. Research and development should be promoted for the better understanding of the mechanisms of adverse effects of chemicals on humans and the environment.

10. Attempts should be made to further reduce the use of vertebrate animals in toxicity testing by encouraging the development, validation and use of alternative methods.

Programme area B: Harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals

1. The ongoing technical work on classification criteria should be strengthened to enable finalization by 1997. Continued work to harmonize classification systems and to establish compatible hazard communication systems, including labelling and safety data sheets, should be completed by 2000.

2. Countries should ensure that there is sufficient consultation to allow the development of a consistent national position on harmonization of classification systems.

3. An international framework for translating the result of the technical work on harmonization into an instrument or recommendations applicable legally at the national level should be established at an appropriate time.

Programme area C: Information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks

1. Networks for information exchange should be strengthened to take full advantage of the information dissemination capacities of all governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

2. Both the types of information exchanged and the methods of effecting the exchange should be tailored to meet the needs of major groups of users, taking due account of different languages and literacy levels.

3. Relevant data available from international bodies should be consolidated, if economically feasible, by 1997 on CD/ROM or other appropriate electronic media, together with suitable searching and updating facilities.

4. Sources of information useful to responding to chemical emergencies should be established and access to these sources should be readily and rapidly available.

5. Regional cooperation and information exchange networks should be established in all regions as soon as possible.

6. National institutions responsible for information exchange on chemicals should be created or strengthened, according to needs.

7. All countries should have nominated, by 1997, designated authorities for participation in the PIC procedure.

8. Work should continue to evaluate and address problems with implementation of the voluntary PIC procedure and to develop effective international legally binding instruments concerning the PIC procedure.

9. All countries which export chemicals subject to the PIC procedure should have the necessary mechanisms in place by 1997, including implementation and enforcement provisions, to ensure that export does not take place contrary to importing countries' decisions. Importing countries should also establish the necessary mechanisms.

10. In all developing countries and countries in economic transition, training should have been made available by 1997 in the implementation of the London Guidelines and the PIC procedure.

11. The circulation of safety data sheets for all dangerous chemicals being traded should be encouraged, as promoted by the recently agreed Code of Ethics on The International Trade in Chemicals.

Programme area D: Establishment of risk reduction programmes

1. In all countries chemical risks which are both readily identifiable and readily controllable should be reduced as soon as possible. In countries with sufficient resources, plans for the possible reduction of other chemical risks should be elaborated and enacted without delay. Industry, in accordance with the Polluter Pays Principle, has a particular responsibility to contribute to the implementation of risk reduction programmes. Governmental experience and progress in national risk reduction programmes shall be presented in a report by 1997 to serve as a basis for setting goals for the year 2000.

2. The feasibility and usefulness of extending pollutant release and transfer registers to more countries, including newly industrialized countries, should be evaluated and a report prepared by 1997.

3. As a particular priority, the recently agreed Code of Ethics on The International Trade in Chemicals should be applied widely by industry in all countries without delay.

4. Efforts to promote the development and use of clean technology regarding the production and use of chemicals should be encouraged.

5. Countries should review their pesticides safety strategy in order to protect human health and the environment, including surface and ground water. To reduce pesticide risks, countries should consider promoting the use of adequate safer pesticides, as well as the decreased use by better management practices and the introduction of alternative pest management technologies. A progress report should be prepared by 1997.

6. By 1997 not less than 25 more countries should have implemented systems for prevention of major industrial accidents in accordance with international principles such as those contained in the 1993 ILO Convention (No. 174) on the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

7. By 1997 not less than 50 more countries should have introduced national systems for emergency preparedness and response, including a strategy for education and training of personnel, with the aid of, *inter alia*, the APELL programme and the ILO Code of Practice on the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents (1991).

8. By 1997 not less than 40 more countries should have established poison control centers with related clinical and analytical facilities, and good progress should have been made on harmonizing systems for recording data in different countries.

9. Priority attention should also be given to finding and introducing safe substitutes for chemicals with which high and unmanageable risks are associated. Governments, industries and users of chemicals should also develop, where feasible, new less hazardous chemicals and new processes and technologies which effectively prevent pollution.

10. While recognizing that risk reduction activities are primarily national responsibilities, international risk reduction programmes could also be warranted for those problems that are international in scope.

11. Attention should also be paid to ensuring that all countries introduce appropriate legislation to implement UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and to ensuring that this legislation is regularly updated whenever the Recommendations are revised, especially in the context of the global harmonization of classification and labelling systems.

Programme area E: Strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals

1. The strengthening of national capabilities and capacities to manage chemicals in a great number of developing countries requires, in addition to funding and support from developed countries, innovative thinking as to how to make best use of existing systems. Bilateral assistance arrangements between developed and developing countries and countries with economies in transition should be encouraged. Efficient regional cooperation is of the utmost importance.

2. National profiles to indicate the current capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals and the specific needs for improvement should be elaborated as soon as possible and not later than 1997.

3. Comprehensive guidelines for chemical legislation and enforcement should be elaborated as soon as possible, taking into account, *inter alia*, the principles of the 1990 ILO Chemicals Convention (No. 170).

4. By 1997 mechanisms for ensuring liaison of all parties involved in chemical safety activities within a country should be established in the majority of countries.

5. Further education programmes and training courses should be arranged at the national and regional level to provide a core of trained people, both technical staff and policy makers, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

6. Efforts should be made to improve the coordination of activities in the area of education, training and technical assistance.

7. As a longer term objective, chemical information systems should be established in all countries, comprehensive legislation should be enacted and enforcement procedures be in place. Continued campaigns to increase the public awareness of chemical risks and their prevention should be run.

Programme area F: Prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products

Until control legislation is in place in a sufficient number of countries, as a basis for further legal international instruments to halt illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products, all efforts should be made to improve the situation, including strengthening of the PIC procedure.

IPCS/IFCS/94.Res 3
29 April 1994

Resolution

Tribute to the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden

The International Conference on Chemical Safety,

Having met in Stockholm from 25 to 29 April 1994 at a Conference convened by the Executive Heads of the International Labour Office, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization,

Recalling that the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden also hosted the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, and other major international meetings on chemical safety,

Acknowledging with gratitude the generous support provided by the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden in hosting the present Conference,

Grateful for the kind hospitality provided to the delegates to the Conference,

Expresses its deep appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden.